FBIS DAILY REPORT

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'ARAFAT SPEAKS ON CHALLENGES TO REVOLUTION

Warning Against Israeli Attack

JN302036 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2015 GMT 30 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 30 March--PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has warned against an aggression being schemed by the Zionist enemy against the Arab nation.

In a speech on the occasion of Land Day, 'Arafat said: We expect a decisive battle against the enemy and a new treasonous blow before the end of the so-called autonomy talks between the Egyptian and Zionist regimes in May.

'Arafat called upon all the Palestinians in the Arab Gulf states to join the fighters' ranks, particularly since the revolution has declared a state of alert to confront the Zionist alert.

Speech in Abu Dhabi

JN302142 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 2115 GMT 30 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 30 March--PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has reiterated that the Arab nation's support for the armed Palestinian struggle is the sole way of restoring the legitimate Palestinian rights.

In a speech on the occasion of Land Day, 'Arafat welcomed the recent European initiative on the Palestinian problem. He, however, said that this initiative should be founded on two principal bases: the continuity of the revolution and armed struggle and not harming the inalienable and firm rights of the Palestinian people.

'Arafat asserted the Palestinian revolution's support for the Arab nation in defending the Arab oil and the Arab Gulf area.

'Arafat warned against a recent suggestion by the Camp David partners of applying the autonomy plan to the Gaza Strip and said: The Palestinian people in Gaza reject any initiative aimed at separating them from the rest of Palestine and always declare their adherence to the PLO as their sole legitimate representative.

'Arafat also rejected the principle of settling the Palestinians in southern Lebanon or in any other part of the world and said: The natural place for the Palestinians is in Palestine and in every area in Palestine, including Tel Aviv. 'Arafat accused the Zionist entity of employing the most destructive weapons in order to inflict the greatest possible human losses on the Lebanese and Palestinian people. 'Arafat demanded a unified Arab action to foil the Camp David plots and to thwart all the plots against the Arab nation.

During the celebrations, which were attended by a number of Arab and foreign ambassadors accredited to the UAE, 'Arafat warned against any Israeli strike at Syria and the Palestinian resistance before the end of the self-rule talks on 26 May.

Speaking about the Egyptian people's rejection of the separate peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, the Palestinian leader said that the Egyptian nationalist movement, which raised 1 million Palestinian flags on the day when the Israeli flag was raised in Cairo, represents the real image of these great people, the Egyptian people.

On his recent visit to India, 'Arafat said that India's stand toward the Palestinian issue and Arab cause was positive.

In conclusion, 'Arafat praised the UAE's support for the Palestinian resistance.

KUNA NOTES PLO'S DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS IN EUROPE

LD261236 Kuwait KUNA in English 1049 GMT 26 Mar 80 LD

[Text] London, March 26 (KUNA)--A senior delegation from the Palestine Liberation Organisation's National Council will tour Western Europe this April in what is seen as a major PLO diplomatic offensive to follow up President Giscard d'Estaing's call for self-determination for the Palestine people. The 10-man delegation will start its European initiative in Strasbourg and then split into three parties to visit London, Paris, Brussels and Bonn for meetings with leading politicians and members of Parliament. The PLO representative office in London confirmed to KUNA Wednesday that a delegation from the National Council, the PLO parliament, will be visiting London later next month. The PLO representatives are due to hold talks with British members of Parliament. However, British official sources here ruled out the possibility of the delegation making ministerial level contacts with the British Government at present, chiefly because of insistence that the PLO must accept Israel's right to exist in the context of United Nations Resolution 242.

Nonetheless, one of the most senior representatives of the PLO to yet address the houses of Parliament will later today (Wednesday) be making a speech in the British legislature. The chairman of the Palestinian National Council's Foreign Affairs Committee, Khalid al-Hasan, will talk to British members of Parliament on his views of the central conditions needed for a peaceful Middle East settlement. His address, due in special Parliamentary committee rooms, has been organised by the Committee for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding. The PLO's new initiative in Europe next month reflects the fact that the organisation has been significantly encouraged in its campaign for acceptance and recognition in Western capitals, following the French president's stand and Austria's decision to become the first European government to offer diplomatic relations. The European Economic Community (EEC) is understood to be working out a new Middle East position which may include a statement on the status of the PLO. Discussions on the Middle East were due to be included in the EEC summit meeting of heads of state, originally scheduled in Brussels this coming Monday and Tuesday. But the political crisis in Italy and continued wrangling by Britain over its contribution to EEC finances have resulted in the postponement of this summit for some weeks.

Britain has declared itself to be in support of French President Giscard's stand on the Palestinian issue. In the House of Lords this month, British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington said that the PLO is not a terrorist organisation and Britain believed it was an "important factor" that would have to be involved in Middle East peace negotiations.

PALESTINIAN OFFICIALS ADDRESS BEIRUT LAND DAY CEREMONY

NC301645 [Editorial Report NC] The clandestine Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World at 1536 GMT on 30 March broadcasts a recording of a ceremony held in Beirut on 30 March to mark Land Day. The recording begins with an unidentified speaker praising the occasion and the Palestinian Revolution. He greets the Palestinian masses "who will foil the Camp David conspiracy."

After the Palestinian and Lebanese national anthems and the reading of a poem, Sa'd al-Mazra'awi, begins speaking at 1545 GMT. He says the occupied land, the day we are now celebrating, is part of the Arab homeland. He adds that the usurped and looted land is a part of the land for which our fighters are "struggling with determination." "Southern Lebanon is also a part of this usurped land."

He says that "the unity of this land and of the fighters sets the most splendid example of the unity of the land of Palestine and Lebanon together." He then speaks of the struggle of the solidarity of the Lebanese nationalist movement with the Palestinian revolution "to prevent the emergence of an entity which would justify Israel's existence." His 15-minute speech is followed by patriotic music.

At 1603 GMT, Hasan Matar, representing the Lebanese National Front, begins to speak. After praising 30 March, he speaks of the "honor of scoring victory," and affirms that "wagering on this conspiracy called 'autonomy' has been brought down by our people's struggle." He says our people have known how to respond to threats and settlement "when they wrote with their own blood the treaty of victory, not of submission and capitulation." He then goes on to mention that "while our people are offering martyrs daily, As-Sadat embraces Begin and the shah," which is irrefutable evidence of this ferocious onslaught by the devilish triange of As-Sadat, Begin and the United States. He then tells his audience that "our struggle should be modeled after the exemplary daily struggle of Hebron and Jerusalem." He says that the devilish imperialist-Zionist-As-Sadat alliance and their agents have masterminded a plan to scorch us in a war, as charted at Camp David, in order to insure Israel's safety and America's oil supplies and to drive a wedge between the Soviet Union and the Arabs. He reminds his audience about former Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban's statements that "we will not feel reassured about Israel unless there is hatred a mong the Arabs greater than the one they harbor for Israel. He also quotes Brzezinski on the need for making the Arabs feel the Soviet Union is a danger "greater than that of Israel." He then speaks of the need for checking the imperialist-Zionist-As-Sadat onslaught, and stresses the "pan-Arab need" for the emergence of a unified "eastern front" against Israel to offset As-Sadat's abandoning of the battle. He also speaks of the need for bolstering and supporting Syria. He says the oil states, the oil rulers, and those who pay homage to lip service must advance toward Palestine. He then says that As-Sadat raised Israel's flag, but our Egyptian people raised 1 million Palestinian flags in return.

The speaker explains that in view of Syria's opposition to imperialist and Zionist designs, Syria is being subjected to an onslaught. "Therefore," brothers, "we have decided to carry the same rifle and to be in the same trench--the rifle of Palestine and the trench of Palestine." He says that "the 5-year war is best proof for the Arab rulers that the Lebanese people have discharged their duty." He concludes: "This is the day of Lebanon and Palestine." His 16-minute speech ends at 1619 GMT.

Next comes a speech by the representative of the Arab Army of Lebanon, Ahmad al-Khatib. He says: "Today is very much like yesterday. The land of Lebanon looks very much like the land of Palestine." He says the land of Lebanon has been placed on the same course as the land of Palestine." Al-Khatib discusses history in the remainder of his 4-minute speech.

At this point reception fades to unmonitorable for a few minutes. At 1625 GMT an unidentified speaker can be heard telling the story of Ziyad Abu al-'Ayn, a struggler who, he said, went to the United States and against whom the Zionist intelligence service "trumped up" a charge. He then tells how the American administration took advantage of the absence of Abu al-'Ayn's lawyers recently to hand over Ziyad Abu al-'Ayn to the Zionist authorities. He also tells how the committee for Palestinian prisoners decided to intervene and reads the text of a telegram the committee sent to the U.S. Department of State.

At 1634 GMT, Dr George Habash of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine delivers a 9-minute speech. He begins by reviewing the history of Land Day. He says that "on this day, we swear by the land and by everything we hold sacred that we will struggle until the Palestinian flag is raised over every city, town and village in our land." He says that in confronting all attempts at describing this stand as one of romanticism, it is imperative for the Palestinians to take all stands which would achieve this objective. Dr Habash tells his audience to study the Palestinian issue from 1948 up to the present day and to announce this study to the world. He says that "this heroic Palestinian people, despite the 1948 setback, the series of plots, the massacres of Jarash" and despite other forms of struggle, "our valiant people in Hebron, Nazareth and Galilee stand to announce that the land of Palestine is Arab." Dr George Habash then says that when "American papers say this or that person is a CIA agent and the U.S. administration does not deny this," then it is our duty to confront these agents. He says that it is the duty of the Palestinians to expand the Lebanese nationalist movement. He then says that is "our duty to remain in the same trench."

At 1643 GMT, Fatah Central Committee Member Abu Jihad begins to speak, praising the voice of the revolution," and reading some letters from its listeners. Abu Jihad then reassures the writers of these letters that the revolution lives with them and struggles with them. He tells them: "Your struggle, freemen, fires our struggle." He added: "Be confident that on this day of the land and of sacrifices, and through your sacrifices, you have always brought back to memory the basic fact that the struggle is unified." This is the first fact, he says.

Abu Jihad then says that the second fact is that "our enemy is engaging in making our people suffer." He mentions the sufferings of our people on the bridges, in the factories and in seeing settlements sprouting up every day near their villages. He tells them: "Had it not been for our faith, we would not have carried this rifle." He then affirms that "We seek to liberate Jaffa, Acre and Haifa before anything else."

Continuing his speech, Abu Jihad urges the strugglers not to stop to ponder the objectives of their struggle, but to continue to struggle. Later, he says: "Our brothers, do not worry. All the strugglers among your rebel brothers are exerting efforts to achieve unity." We make this pledge to you, he says, adding that our brothers will not see multiplicity in the Palestinian revolution, "and this is a trust staying with us." Citing a letter from a radio listener about whether Palestinian political activity can be a substitute for the rifle, Abu Jihad says: "When this fighter carried his rifle and threw his bomb, the world began asking 'Who is he who has carried his rifle?!" He asks: Will these efforts go in vain? and answers: "No, even when knocking on the doors of our friends, we told them that we would fight and fight." He goes on to say that the Palestinians now find conscientious people throughout the world "who listen to the voice of the victim." He adds: "Thus we have proved the fact to the whole world that our cause is one of fighters," adding that "it is not an issue of refugees. However, it has been a righteous cause. Thus, no one can pretend to be doing us a favor." He tells his listeners that we will tell the world "that everything will remain pending the solution of this issue. We will not abandon our rights." He adds that "not for a moment do we think that any initiative will return our land to us." He adds: "We have believed in the bomb and the rifle," adding that "not for a single moment will a fighter refrain from using them."

Abu Jihad then asks how long this state of affairs will last, answering: "We have confidence in the Palestinian revolution and in its struggle, together with its steadfast brothers of the Lebanese masses." He says: "Together we must move to take practical steps," in order to extend support to these steadfast revolutionaries, because there can be no confrontation without sacrifices and "without escalating our armed struggle day after day, operation after operation." At this point, Abu Jihad addresses the masses of Galilee and of Hebron, where, he says, the Zionists have left no holy spot in the holy mosque without trampling upon it. He warns the Muslims that the Al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron is in danger and the Christians that the place of the nativity is in danger.

Abu Jihad's 38-minute speech ended at 1721 GMT and the broadcast concluded.

ARAB PEOPLE'S CONGRESS HAILS PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE

LD311634 Tripoli JANA in English 1444 GMT 31 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Tripoli, March 31, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress yesterday issued the following statement commemorating the day of the land:

"In commemoration of the Palestinian people and armed revolution's long struggle against the enemy of peoples--Zionism and colonialism--and in glorification of the heroic deads of Palestinians and the Arab nation performed for attaining freedom and dignity...the permanent secretariat of the Arab People's Congress is celebrating the March 30 event of the Palestinian people and their armed revolution under the Palestine Liberation Organization's leadership. The secretariat also salutes the revolutionary uprisings of Palestinian peasants, workers and students.

Our celebration of the day of the land is affirmation of the Palestinian people's clinging to their land and country, and their refusal to compromise one inch of it no matter how long it takes to achieve their goals. We are confident that our people who sacrificed thousands of martyrs for liberating their nation, cannot stop the struggle half way through. No power can divert the Palestinians from the path of liberating their land. The Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress, which is a popular, progressive and patriotic organization, carries out its freedom-fighting responsibilities with the Palestinian people, declares its rejection of all diversionary tactics by neo-colonialism and reaction. We are certain that victory shall be the Palestinian people's and Arab nation's ally and colonialism, Zionism and reaction". [sentence as received]

"Today, when we assert the firm stand of the Arab nation with the Palestinian people's struggle, we are in fact confirming the Arab People's Congress resolutions. We do not desire to assume qualities as some circles wish we did such as some popular organizations to join the sane bandwagon of organizations of a Zionist and imperialist stamp. We recall here the resolutions passed by the Arab People's Congress at its first session in Tripoli, December 1977. The Palestinian revolution had revealed the Arab reality as it has never been revealed. The bitter struggle waged by the Palestinian masses ever since 1965 has revealed the following facts:

1. The conflict in Palestine does not lie outside but is within the framework of conflict with neo-colonialism under the leadership of the United States.

It also lies within the framework of conflict with Arab reactionary forces. This is why America has provided (Israel) with all the facilities it needed to remain strong and superior with an expansionist policy. Arab reactionary forces in Jordan and Lebanon have both dealt a blow to the Palestinian revolution.

2. It has been proven that any Palestinian struggle no matter how revolutionary and strong, is unable to continue its liberation task alone without the help of the Arab masses. The essence of the conflict in Palestine is indeed that it is a struggle against American imperialism and reactionary forces. It requires all the energies of the Arab nation.

3. The Arab masses are ready to enter the conflict. Slackening the struggle is only the result of a lack of organization, mobilization and preparation to take part in the conflict.

4. All bargaining with neo-imperialism leads to defeat. The conflict with neo-imperialism should always be decisive and aggressive.

These realities have been confirmed both by the struggle to the Palestinian people and Arab nation. We should be highly aware of them because adherence to these realities constitutes our guarantee of victory. The Arab nation is still under great danger and foreign designs, and the ambitions, capabilities and resources of its masses are stil under the domination of hostile forces. The dangers are increasing because of neo-imperialism's policy of using reactionary Arab forces as a tool against revolution, patriotic and progressive forces.

All these facts force us to sharply differentiate friends from enemies. Reactionary forces have attempted to blur the dividing line. Therefore we should reaffirm our determination for struggle and sacrifice. Even if the nature and goals of the struggle have already determined our actions, it is still necessary to redefine our enemies which constitute the following forces:

"Neocolonialism under the leadership of the U.S.A., Zionism and reaction. Despite all the differences and contradictions between these forces or the conflicts that may develop, they stand against the Arab national liberation movement, its friends in the socialist bloc and other liberation movements in Africa, Asia, Latin America and progressive forces in the world. This definition removes the opportunity of success due to political juggling. Moreover, it defines the direction of the blows to be dealt to the enemy camp and eliminates confusion.

We desire to consolidate our relations with our friends and increase cooperation. We also call for intensifying the attack against the mentioned enemy camp, their interests, agents and resources we desire to make more friends. The Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress pays tribute to the heroic struggle of the Palestinian people and reasserts its belief that the Arab nation will not permit any incursion against its struggle which would prevent it from regaining its right to self-determination and to the establishment of its independent state in its own territory. All conspiracies and manoeuvres will be foiled by armed struggle consolidation. Glory to the Palestinian people and their Arab nation. Death to their enemies, the enemies of the peoples."

ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL AFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR AFRICAN LIBERATION

ID271414 Tunis TAP in English 1429 GMT 27 Mar 80 LD

["Pool" item]

[Text] Tunis, March 27 (TAP)--The Arab League Council congratulates Zimbabwe's people on their success in recovering independence, getting rid of apartheid and injustice and setting-up a national regime born of its free people's will.

In a communique released Wednesday in Tunis at the end of its 37th session, the council congratulates at the same time all the African peoples on this victory considered by the Arab nation as its own victory and as a prelude to the fall of racist regimes, as well as to the recovery of its rights in spoilt Palestine and in the other Arab territories occupied by the Zionist enemy.

The Arab League re-affirms its determination to always back the causes of peoples in South Africa and (?Namibia) in their struggle against racial discrimination and to support politically and materially all the other African peoples who, through their sacred battle, show the other states the way towards freedom.

The league is also keen to grant its total assistance to the Zimbabwean heroical people reiterating its will to re-inforce their independence and stability as well as fully supporting the liberation struggles in Africa.

PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATIONS ISSUE STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

JN312037 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 31 Mar 80 JN

[Text] In a statement they issued today, Palestinian popular organizations in Syria stressed their support for and commitment to the recommendations issued by the Syrian popular organizations' emergency conferences on mobilizing forces to confront the gangs of crime, apostasy and reaction. They also expressed their readiness to carry arms to defend Syria's steadfastness and the unity of its internal front and to protect Syria's progressive achievements and the friendly Syrian people's gains.

The Palestinian popular organizations also called for strengthening national and progressive unity inside Syria, mobilizing the masses and consolidating militant cohesion among Syria, the Palestinian revolution and the other nationalist and progressive Arab parties and forces within the framework of the pan-Arab front of steadfastness and confrontation and the Arab people's conference. They also called for transforming the front of steadfastness and confrontation into a strategic, political, economic and military alliance that will be the main base for confronting the Camp David agreements and foiling them.

In their statement, issued on the occasion of land day, the popular organizations praised the steadfastness of our heroic people in the occupied territories and praised the Arab nation's martyrs who had fallen in defense of the land and the homeland. The popular organizations pledged to the Arab masses that they will continue the struggle until victory is achieved.

The statement was signed by the General Federation of Palestinian Workers, the General Federation of Palestinian Women, the General Federation of Palestinian Peasants, the Palestinian Revolution Youth Federation, the General Federation of Palestinian Writers and Journalists, the General Federation of Palestinian Teachers, the General Federation of Palestinian Artists and the Higher Palestinian Council for Youth and Sports.

AFP: 'ARAFAT TO MAKE OFFICIAL VISIT TO PRC

NC311935 Paris AFP in English 1821 GMT 31 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Abu Dhabi, March 31 (AFP)--Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir 'Arafat has been invited by the Peking government to pay an official visit to China, sources close to Mr 'Arafat said here today.

Mr 'Arafat, the sources added, has accepted the invitation but not yet proposed a date, because of current tensions in the Middle East.

Mr 'Arafat declined an invitation from United Arab Emirates Oil Minister Mani' ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah, who chairs a Palestinian-Japanese dialogue, to visit Japan, however,

"I will go to Tokyo only at the invitation of the Japanese Government. Let this be clear once and for all," Mr 'Arafat said.

The possibility of an official 'Arafat visit to Japan was raised a month ago, when it left Japanese politicians seriously divided.

SPA: PLO'S QADDUMI PRAISES FRENCH ATTITUDE TOWARD PALESTINIANS

LD301218 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0755 GMT 30 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Riyadh, 30 March--Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has praised the recent French attitude toward the Palestinian problem, which was made very clear during the recent visit of President Giscard d'Estaing to a number of Arab countries and marked by recognition of the Palestinians' right to self-determination. The Palestinian official confirmed in an interview published today by AR-RIYAD that the French attitude represented a European shift on the Palestine problem, particularly after Britain and West Germany had come out in support of the French initiative.

He condemned the American attitude toward the Palestine problem as it represented a clear bias in favor of the Zionist enemy and he described it as fluctuating. Concerning the attitude of international organizations toward the Palestine problem, Qaddumi confirmed the PLO rejection of Security Council Resolution 242, even in an amended form, and called on the Security Council to issue a new resolution confirming the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people. Qaddumi praised both Palestinian-Jordanian and Palestinian-Lebanese relations. He confirmed the PLO's eagerness to maintain strong relations with these two countries.

ARAB CONFERENCE FINAL SESSION ENDS IN BAGHDAD

JN280948 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 28 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 28 March--Ba'th Party National Command member Na'im Haddad presided today over the sixth and final session of the pan-Arab People's Conference. The session was devoted to discussion of the draft political statement prepared by the draft committee. It has been learned that the statement will be announced at the end of the session.

At the beginning of the session, Na'im Haddad called for the translation of the conference's resolutions into reality. He also called for the continuation of efforts to establish a popular pan-Arab front. He said that a genuine front should be free from subservience to anyone and far from the domination of any Arab regime, in order to be the spearhead of the popular masses' movement.

The Ba'th Party National Command member added that the Arabs' support and backing for each other is the only guarantee of the Arab individual's resurgent ability to express his real will and faith in his nation, as well as his rejection of all of the restrictions imposed by Arab reaction.

Na'im Haddad affirmed that Iraq stands in one trench side by side with the Palestinian revolution and that it will continue its support for the Lebanese Nationalist Movement.

The Ba'th Party National Command member expressed confidence that the nationalist movement in cherished Egypt and its new Nationalist Front will shoulder their responsibilities in overthrowing traitor As-Sadat's regime and will wash away the dishonor that beset us as a result of As-Sadat's treason in Camp David.

Drafting Committee Chairman Sa'd Qasim Hammudi then read the final statement, which was approved by the conferees following a brief discussion.

The political statement will be announced at a huge popular gathering later today.

PLO DELEGATION CONCLUDES VISIT TO INDIA

For accounts of the conclusion of the visit to India by the PLO delegation led by Yasir 'Arafat and the text of the joint communique see the India section of the 1 April South Asia DAILY REPORT.

MENA: HEALTH OF FORMER SHAH IMPROVES

NC311304 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 31 March--A medical bulletin issued today by the armed forces hospital in Al-Ma'adi said that the health of the former shah of Iran was continuing to improve and that he had been moved from the intensive care unit to a private room.

The following is the text of the medical bulletin, the fourth since the shah entered the hospital, which was issued by Maj Gen Dr Sabri 'Abdallah Ahmad, the director of the hospital: Today, which is the third day since the former shah of Iran underwent an operation, his health is steadily improving. He was allowed to leave bed and to move. He was also moved from the intensive care unit to his room. He was allowed to take fluids by mouth. His spirits are high. A histological test has proved that the bone marrow has returned to normal. A histological study of the removed spleen and of samples from the liver cells which were taken during surgery has proved that there are lymphatic tissues in them. It has been decided to resume the chemotherapy with which the patient was successfully treated in previous years, following the improvement in the composition of the blood as a result of the removal of the spleen, which was the reason for the abnormal change in the blood cell formations. This treatment had been stopped during the past 3 weeks.

AS-SADAT RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM CANADA'S TRUDEAU

NC301940 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 30 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Vice President Husni Mubarak today received the Canadian ambassador in Cairo, Jean-Marie Dery, who handed him a message from Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau for President as-Sadat.

AS-SADAT CONGRATULATES CEAUSESCU ON REELECTION

NC311312 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 31 Mar 80 NC

["Text" of message from President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat to Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu--date not given]

[Text] Cairo, 31 March--On the occasion of your reelection as president of the friendly Socialist Republic of Romania, it gives me pleasure to convey to you our sincerest, heartfelt congratulations in my behalf and on behalf of the people of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and to wish you continuous success and levelheadedness in discharging your noble mission.

When commending your people's progress and splendid achievements in various areas in providing for a better life, the Arab people of Egypt confidently look forward to developing and consolidating friendly relations in the interest of our peoples and in the service of international security and peace. While appreciating your principled stands on the Arab question and on giving a momentum to the just and durable peace in the Middle East, we are confident that this positive role will continue so that the caravan of peace may proceed toward its aspired targets and so that security and peace may be stabilized in our area.

I convey to you my sincerest greetings coupled with my wishes for your health and happiness and for the continuous progress of your friendly people under your vigilant and wise leadership.

Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak sent a similar message of congratulations to the Romanian president.

AL-BAZ LEAVES FOR U.S. TO PREPARE FOR AS-SADAT VISIT

NC311226 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1140 GMT 31 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 31 March--Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Dr Usamah al-Baz left Cairo today for Washington to prepare for President Anwar as-Sadat's visit, which will take place in April.

NORMALIZATION DELEGATION RETURNS FROM ISRAEL

NC311238 Cairo MENA in English 1225 GMT 31 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo March 31, (MENA)--Member of the committee for the normalisation of relations, Taha al-Majdub, and his accompanying delegation arrived here today from Israel after attending meetings of the committee which were held there on March 22 through March 30.

Following his arrival, Al-Majdub said that during the meeting the two sides agreed on the organization of moving across the temporary lines of Al-Arish area by the Egyptians and the Israelis. They also agreed on installing a check point there to let the Palestinians go into and out of Egypt to Gaza and the West Bank, adding that the work has recently started according to this system.

Majdub added that preparations are [being] laid down for the coming meeting by defense ministers of both countries in April as a report on the results achieved on the normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel will be submitted to them.

INTERIOR MINISTER DISCUSSES ASYUT INCIDENTS, UNITY

NC311258 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1205 GMT 31 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 31 March--In a statement he delivered at the People's Assembly today, Interior Minister Muhammad Nabawi Isma'il dealt with the incidents that took place in Asyut on 28 March and with domestic unity.

In his statement, Nabawi Isma'il said: I have come to you today out of the commitment of the National Democratic Party's government to always place the facts before the people that are related to any important subject and on the basis of our firm faith that it is the people's right to know everything from this place, that we have nothing to conceal, and that facts are always the guarantee to answer any attempts to cast doubts or twist facts.

He added: I will give you a true and responsible picture on two topics. The first is connected with an incident that took place in Asyut on 28 March, and the second is connected with an incident that affects our domestic unity, which we all are very keen to preserve. This task might be difficult because the issues are being investigated by the prosecution. Therefore, I will restrict myself to the dimensions and results of these incidents.

The interior minister went on: The first topic relates to what happened in Asyut. Some Islamic groups held a meeting at Nasir Mosque in Asyut that dealt with domestic and foreign issues. Nobody interfered with them in application of democracy and of the May Revolution's open society. Many meetings have been held in which we have not interfered because of our faith in the strength of our system and the soundness of our domestic front. The entire world appreciates the course we are pursuing.

The minister then said: We agree to the holding of such meetings despite the excesses that may happen because we have confidence in our broad base.

We do not shake or become nervous because of what might happen here or there. Our confidence in our march and leadership is stronger than the attempts of the minority to cast doubt on them.

Isma'il further said: The meeting ended at about 2130 at night. The conferees were able to stage a march throughout the entire city of Asyut. It was our duty then to adopt the responsible decision to implement sound democracy and the supremacy of the law, to safeguard the security of the citizens and to preserve domestic unity and social peace.

Nabawi Isma'il further said that within the framework of law the conferees were told to abandon the march. The political leadership tried to pursuade those who wanted to stage the march to change their minds, but despite all attempts they insisted on implementing the scheme and staging the march.

The authorities informed them that the march was not allowed and that they had to disperse. However, they were not persuaded and pelted policemen with stones, injuring four policemen and two officers and damaging cars and shop windows in the squares. Afterwards, the police interfered and arrested some of them; five students received mild injuries. The crowd dispersed and some of them took refuge in a mosque for some time for fear of being detained. The president of Asyut University met with them to persuade them to leave. They left the mosque after 2 or 3 hours and returned to the university and their homes.

Nabawi Isma'il went on: On the second day, 29 March, the injured policemen and students were taken to the hospital. An employee of Al-Badari Company had been a patient at the hospital since before the incident. He was hit by a bullet and eventually succumbed to his wound. They spread rumors that there were a number of dead and that this employee was killed during the clash. They tried to take him away from the hospital and march through the streets to incite feelings and cause confusion. The minister then said: The police intervened and the body was buried in the village of the deceased. It is indeed regrettable that some students hurled four Molotov cocktails, two of which went off. Despite this, the police exercised self-restraint and there were no casualties on either side. The instigation was continuing until this morning. Attempts are being made to cast doubt and give the impression that it was the police who began the attack. However, God knows how hard the police are trying to exercise self-restraint.

In his statement, the interior minister further said: This minority is trying to fanatically cause a provocation, and it misunderstands religion. This does not mean that we should pass a general verdict on our youth and students, who in general are in good shape. He went on: The prosecution has assumed the investigation and it has issued decisions keeping in custody eight of those arrested. It released some by bail and others by guaranteeing the place of their residence. The prosecution has demanded that 10 other persons, whose role in the incidents has been determined by the investigation, be summoned. He added that the hostile news agencies and radios seized this incident to cast doubts in Egypt and claim that it suffers from instability and anxiety. However, the masses of the great Egyptian people are aware of the stability we enjoy in comparison to what is taking place in other societies abroad.

The interior minister then turned to the second subject, which is related to domestic unity. He said: I wish to emphasize that we are all keen on preserving our domestic unity on the basis of our firm faith and principles, which are our safeguard in the face of all challenges. Egypt has not known fanaticism or racism since the spread of Islam. It believes in the great religious values because of the meeting of goodness, peace and love that they imply.

The minister added: Such incidents occur among members of the same family and are considered as natural in a society of 41 million people, where differences could take place between two Muslims, between a Muslim and a Christian, or among members of the same family. He emphasized that the stability and atmosphere of security we live in Egypt creates a sensitivity toward any small incident whereas we see racism, liquidations and explosions in the European societies and Arab states around us. What happens here in comparison is only a drop in the ocean.

Isma'il went on: Our faith in our domestic unity is great. Any excess harming our domestic unity must be firmly dealt with. Any action by a Muslim or a Christian aimed at harming our domestic unity will not pass unpunished, and we will not be lenient with such a person because our domestic unity and the safety of the domestic front cannot tolerate leniency, compromises or outbiddings. Legality and the supremacy of the law will take their course. We will never agree that a fanatic Christian or Muslim should attempt to drag us or drag the society into problems that could affect our domestic unity and the safety of our domestic front.

The second event about which I am speaking began last week when an incident took place in University City in Alexandria. A Christian student was visited in his room by another Christian student and a Muslim student. It was reported that they were listening to the radio when a Muslim student asked them to turn it down because it was noisy. An argument ensued and two Christian and two Muslim students interfered. The students clashed, and three Christian and one Muslim students were taken to the hospital. They received mild injuries and were immediately discharged. The university administration took action and issued regulations, deciding that it was normal in university society for Muslim or Christian students to clash and that it was a purely student affair. However, rumors spread that the injured students were in serious condition and that the question was sectarian. Others tried to exaggerate it by saying that attacks had taken place against the Christians and their installations.

The interior minister emphasized that none of the officials could condone an attack on a Christian by a Muslim.

The interior minister said that investigations were taking place, that security measures had been enacted and that most of these matters end in reconciliation between both sides because of the basically good nature of our people, who have pure hearts. All these are normal matters and have nothing to do with sectarianism; indeed, a dispute can often occur among members of the same family that can claim victims.

He added: some people have been reiterating that there have been attacks on places of worship. Sometimes it is reiterated--for the purpose of incitement--that some pressure is being exerted on a Christian to change his creed. However, nothing like this has taken place because freedom of worship is guaranteed. Some isolated incidents may take place, which we do not condone or keep quiet about. These are dealt with by the necessary procedures within the law.

He added: In a small village, for example, an attack took place on a hall belonging to Christians. The attackers were arrested. It later transpired that the matter did not have any sectarian causes but was due to a dispute with the village mayor and that some people had created the incident to disturb the peace in the village and to prove that the mayor was incapable of maintaining the peace.

The interior minister emphasized that the majority of the Egyptian people, Muslims and Christians, realize that these incidents are not related to sectarianism. Some, he said, are saying that there is no intention of holding Easter celebrations, but I say that Egypt is fine, that its people are fine and that matters must be placed in their true perspective. He added: This is not the time for us to allow anyone to carry out such actions. We all stand behind the leader President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat as he proceeds to the United States to complete the process of liberating the restoring Palestinian and Arab rights. Under these circumstances we must not allow exaggeration. We may recall that during the 1978 Camp David talks there was a sectarian incident and the people involved were reconciled and now live in harmony.

He added: I testify that the Christian leaders at that time condemned what happened while the president was abroad working for liberation and for the good of the country and the Arab nation.

The interior minister also said that this was not the time to take such matters out of context lest the enemies of the homeland abroad and the few inside it use this matter as an excuse to cast doubt, incite and say that there is instability and anxiety in the country at a time when the whole world is showing appreciation and admiration for the stability and security we enjoy.

He added: I have received many cables from Muslims and Christians affirming that such isolated incidents cannot harm our national unity and cannot undermine the safety of our domestic front.

He pointed out that in our battles and wars the enemy never differentiated between Muslim and Christian, who both fell and whose blood mixed in the liberation battles. In the battles of construction, Egyptian Muslims and Christians have joined hands to promote prosperity, religious and spiritual values are all based on tolerance, love, peace and security. These few incidents cannot possibly affect our course together as Muslims and Christians.

In his statement, the interior minister affirmed that the government cannot [words indistinct]. [passage indistinct] Our regime in Egypt is strong and patriotic. The entire world is praising our attitudes on all issues because they spring from our conscience. We cannot allow anyone to intentionally or unintentionally harm our society by adopting stands similar to those of Egypt's enemies. He added: I wish to express my appreciation to the Christian leaders for calmly confronting the escalating operations [against the Christians], for knowing their role and for confronting such affairs without exaggerating their size. Our confidence in the masses of our people--Muslims and Christians--is great, and with a faithful heart we proceed in our march behind leader-President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat.

After delivering his statement, Interior Minister Muhammad an-Nabawi Isma'il answered questions by People's Assembly members. In answer to a question by Mumtaz Nassar on whether the police opened fire on the citizens who demonstrated after attending the meeting at Nasir Mosque in Asyut, the interior minister said that not a single shot had been fired and that had this happened, scores of people would have been killed.

The interior minister said that he took the decision to stop the march and that he was personally responsible for the decision. He asked whether it was possible to turn a blind eye to this march and let it be infiltrated and turned into a subversive march, which would have obliged the police to disperse it by force and which could have resulted in scores of people being killed. He added: We allow such meetings and let the people discuss whatever domestic or foreign topics they want to because we believe in the soundness of our domestic front. He then asked whether the holding of such meetings was permitted before the era of President as-Sadat.

People's Assembly member William Najib Sifin then spoke, saying: We denounce any attempt to sow discord between Muslims and Christians, be it by the communists or by citizens who do not appreciate the tolerance of their religion. Member Albert Barsum Salamah then spoke, affirming that the Egyptian family has lived for ages in an atmosphere of love, that it has never known any kind of discord and that both Muslims and Christians sacrificed their blood during the glorious October War.

Member Kamal Henry Abadir, chairman of the Assembly's National Security Committee and deputy chairman of the Coptic and Orthodox General Ethnic Council, spoke next. He praised the solidity of the domestic front and the existing national unity between Muslims and Christians under the leadership of the beloved leader As-Sadat--a unity that has always been the secret of Egypt's greatness. He affirmed that all the people stand united behind President as-Sadat with no differences between Muslims and Christians because we are all Egyptian patriots. The People's Assembly issued a statement in this connection. The session was then adjourned until tomorrow morning, Tuesday.

DEFENSE MINISTER TO LEAVE HOSPITAL 4 APRIL

NC290746 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0703 GMT 29 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 29 March--In Sunday's edition, OCTOBER magazine reports that Egyptian Minister of Defense and War Production Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali will leave the hospital in Washington on 4 April but will stay under the doctors' care for 1 week more before returning to Egypt on 14 April.

Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali was admitted to the rheumatism hospital for treatment of the severe effects of cortisone causing him swollen joints and pain.

The magazine says that the doctors relieved him completely of the effects of cortisone. General 'Ali lost 10 kgs. His pains eased and his eyesight improved as the American doctors used a new method of treatment.

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY ISSUES STATEMENT ON NATIONAL UNITY

NC311600 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 31 Mar 80 NC

[31 March statement by the People's Assembly after hearing the interior minister's statement on the Asyut incidents]

[Text] Cairo, 31 March--After hearing the interior minister's statement and the discussions of the members and in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, the People's Assembly affirms that national unity among all Egyptians--Muslims and Christians--is a firm fact. Its roots extend deep in history and it is the secret of Egypt's strength and grandeur in the past, at present and in the future. Egypt, which is the cradle of the heavenly religions, will always remain a beacon for mankind, preaching love, fraternity and peace.

The Assembly praises all past and present efforts to confirm this genuine objective. The Assembly is confident that those who want to corrupt and undermine these noble meanings are a minority which has reneged on the nation's unanimity and which must be firmly dealt with so that it will not distort Egypt's bright image.

The Assembly takes this opportunity to urge all religious, political and executive leaders to continue their sincere efforts to entrench national unity, establishing it as a firm creed, and to safeguard the Egyptian nation, insuring the continuation of its blessed march toward a bright future under the leadership of the faith leader and head of the Egyptian family, President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat.

CORRECTION TO REPORT ON AS-SADAT RECEIVING LINOWITZ

Following is a correction to the item entitled, "President As-Sadat Receives Linowitz 28 Mar," published in the 28 March Middle East & North Africa DAILY REPORT, page D 7:

The following should be added after the last line: /// again. Thank you.

To a question on his talks with Sol Linowitz this morning, the president said: As I noted earlier, we focused on my forthcoming visit to Washington.

Question: Will Egypt be willing to mediate in the problem of Chad?

Answer: Well, we are willing, should the parties concerned ask us to do so.

To a question concerning the incidents in Chad and whether the president is worried about that, the president replied: I am not worried at all. However, this irresponsible approach is harmful to peace and to the siguation in our area and in Africa, mainly. To a question concerning Libya's involvement in Chad, the president replied: Not only in Chad, but also in Tunisia--and what about the POLISARIO?

Question: What will you be focusing on during your talks with President Carter? You noted that you will be focusing on one specific topic out of three or four problems related to the autonomy talks.

Answer: Well, there are certain matters we will be focusing on. I informed Sol about these matters but I cannot reveal them to anyone.

Question: I believe you have changed your schedule for Washington and that you now intend to stay for 3 days.

Answer: I did not change anything and the visit will take place according to the original schedule.

Question: Then you will be returning after 3 days.

Answer: I will spend 8 and 9 April with President Carter--which is the duration of my stay in the United States.

Concerning the possibility of a meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin, the president said: Alright, let us hope so. Should this prove necessary, I have no objection at all. To another question concerning the date of this meeting, the president replied: After my meeting with President Carter, we might feel a need for such a meeting with Begin and, as I said, I have no objection at all.

Question: Mr President, would a second visit to Washington be possible, during which the three of you, that is Begin, President Carter and Your Excellency, would meet?

Answer: Well, I believe that this would happen if we reached an agreement and wanted to sign it. Well, I am prepared to make this visit ten times over.

BA'TH OFFICIAL RECEIVES EGYPTIAN OPPOSITION LEADER

JN281500 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 27 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Damascus--Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, this evening received a delegation representing the leadership of the Egyptian nationalist front abroad, comprising Lt Gen Sa'd ad-Din ash-Shadhili, the front's secretary general; Michel Kamil, member of the Egyptian Communist Party Politburo, and Fu'ad at-Tuhami, rapporteur of the Egyptian Nationalist Grouping abroad.

During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on the current Arab situation and the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary plot to which the Arab nation and its liberation movement are exposed. The two sides stressed the need to continue the work for the sake of supporting and backing Arab steadfastness whose basic link is represented by Syria. They also agreed to continue the work for the sake of marshalling and unifying the forces and efforts against the Camp David accords and As-Sadat's treasonous regime, which has deviated from the Egyptian people's will and that of the Arab nation.

The two side's views were identical with regard to supporting the Palestinian people's struggle, led by the PLO, and the Lebanese people, led by their nationalist and progressive forces. They stressed the importance of coordinating the work between the Ba'th Party and the Egyptian nationalist front abroad.

Comrade al-Ahmar reiterated the party's and the revolution's support for the Egyptian people's struggle, led by their nationalist and progressive forces. This, Comrade al-Ahmar added, is the principal pan-Arab duty of the Ba'th Party and all the Arab nationalist and progressive forces, which consider the Egyptian people's battle against As-Sadat's regime as theirs.

Comrade al-Ahmar greeted the formation of the Egyptian nationalist front abroad, which represents a significant step along the road of unifying the efforts in the battle of overthrowing the Egyptian regime.

Lt Gen Sa'd ad-Din ash-Shadhili and the other front's members asserted the unity of fate in the common battle, and said supporting Syria's steadfastness is supporting the Egyptian people's struggle. They denounced the plots to which Syria is currently exposed--plots aimed at striking at the center of the Arab nation's weight.

ATH-THAWRAH: SYRIA IS 'ONLY CONFRONTATION FRONT'

JN300832 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 30 Mar 80 JN

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] Under the headline "Will the U.S. Experiment in Vietnam Be Repeated in Syria," ATH-THAWRAH says: When the United States confronts us, this means that the conspiracy is both large and grave. When we find ourselves confronting the United States, this means that our efforts in this confrontation have been both great and serious. We are in one trench while the United States is in another. To be more specific, when was the United States in any other trench than that of the enemy? When was U.S. policy different from the present one?

Since the establishment of the Zionist enemy's state, the United States has been in a state of confrontation with the Arabs. Such a position cannot be cancelled by the United States' protection of some of the Arabs. The U.S. claim that it is concerned with defending Islam and Muslims will not change the facts. The U.S. game requires that the United States mobilize some of the Arabs to support its stand and to raise the slogan of Islam, from time to time, in order to enable it to do what it wishes against the Arab nation.

ATH-THAWRAH adds: As a result of the current Arab situation, Arab Syria has become the only confrontation front. Syria is the problem. Syria is the barrier and the base of confrontation. Syria is the challenge. Washington fears such a thing. Washington fears that Syria will be capable of carrying out steadfastness alone and this will be a blow to U.S. imperialism. Washington fears that Syria will become the center that polarizes pan-Arab strength. Washington fears that Syria will destroy all of the preplanned equations and the situation that the United States has imposed on the area.

ATH-THAWRAH concludes: This is the clash between Damascus and Washington. These are its reasons. There will be no meeting points, no truce nor interruptions in the struggle. The most glorious thing in Syria's reply is that it is determined to clarify the struggle, with all of its dimensions and forces.

UNION LEADERS WARNED AGAINST 'LINKS WITH CONSPIRATORS'

JN310802 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 31 Mar 80 JN

[Statement issued by "The Grouping of Nationalist and Progressive Engineers in Homs," date not given--read by announcer]

[Excerpts] Masses of the people, colleagues: Amid the hard and difficult circumstances through which Arab Syria is passing--while facing yet another plot in the chain of conspiracies concocted by the United States against our Arab people in general and particularly against their nationalist and progressive vanguards, implemented by agents to achieve imperialist-Zionist-reactionary objectives--the imperialist onslaught against our country is intensifying, embodied in the internal and external forces of evil against our people, their great achievements and their aspirations, once again this onslaught errs and all of their calculations have miscarried.

They began searching for hired agents, exploiting the democratic atmosphere and the freedom enjoyed by this country's citizens. Unfortunately, they found a handful of rancorous persons who have relinquished patriotic values and have cut off all of their links with the homeland, which has been generous with them. However, they betrayed their nation and Arabism and became cheap tools in the conspirators' hands. Some of these agents infiltrated the ranks of the economic and scientific sectors. They collaborated with the conspirators and with a handful of persons in these sectors in order to realize joint objectives, exploiting their unionist status and the free and democratic atmosphere that was underscored by the national progressive front in its recent statement.

While recognizing their professional authority as defined by law and while granting free expression to political beliefs, we remind these unionist leaders of the fact that devoting a trade union's work to professional action develops and regulates this profession, enabling it to participate in the socialist building chosen by our people; on the other hand, transforming a trade union's work into political action violates the profession's legal status.

We would also like to remind them that their recent frank proclamation of their opinions, made in the name of the sons of the profession, thus venting their poisons and rancor in an effort to divide national unity with the purpose of sabotage and support for the agents and reactionaries, represents their own personal opinions and expresses specific political affiliations linked with the conspirators. It does not represent the opinion of the engineers, who have been the symbol of national consciousness and generosity and who have contributed to construction and production and offered many sacrifices.

Dear colleagues, we strongly reject and condemn these treasonous stands, which are aimed against our people's unity. As an educated class that is aware of its role and responsibilities, we denounce the behavior of the current unionist leaders and their deviation from unionist and professional norms.

Long live our national and progressive unity. Long live Arab Syria, the land of steadfastness and confrontation, under the leadership of Hafiz al-Asad, the leader of the march. Death and disgrace to the enemies of the people.

MAURITANIAN STUDENTS CONTINUE DEMONSTRATION AT EMBASSY

NC301550 Paris AFP in English 1533 GMT 30 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Damascus, March 30 (AFP)--The forty-five Mauritanian students who temporarily occupied their country's embassy here Wednesday today established themselves around the building after Syrian police prevented them from entering.

In a telephone call to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, the students said they were determined to remain around the building until their demands were satisfied. The students on Wednesday called for increased academic grants and the urgent dispatch here of a top Mauritanian official to negotiate with them before Syrian police ejected them from the building.

The Mauritanian ambassador in Damascus, Mohamed Ould Saleh, [as received] contacted by telephone, confirmed the presence of the students. He added that no decision had been yet taken over the students' demands and that no Mauritanian official had yet arrived for negotiations with them.

During evacuation of the embassy on Wednesday, the ambassador said he had assured the students of his intention to pass their grievances on to his government.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES LEBANESE AYATOLLAH, CUBAN AMBASSADOR

JN302044 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 30 Mar 80 JN

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Ayatollah Reza as-Sadr, elder brother of Imam Musa as-Sadr, head of the Muslim Shi'ite higher council in Lebanon, at 1930 today.

At 1900 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Dr Arthuro Barber Orozco, Cuban ambassador in Damascus, who was leaving at the end of his duty in Syria to assume another post.

INDIAN AIR FORCE COMMANDER LEAVES 28 MAR

JN281943 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 28 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Damascus--Indian air force commander marshal (Idris Hasan Latif) and the delegation accompanying him left Damascus at 1900 today at the end of a visit of several days to Syria.

ALGERIA

ECONOMIC, TECHNICAL DRAFT AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH GDR

LD291537 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 25 Mar 80 p 2 LD

[APS report: "Draft Agreement Signed"]

[Text] Algiers--A draft agreement between Algeria and the GDR was signed at the government palace Monday morning by Politburo member and Interior Minister Dr Boualem Benhamouda, for the Algerian side, and Guenter Mittag, SED Politburo member and Central Committee secretary and GDR State Council member, for the GDR side.

After the signing Dr Benhamouda made a speech in which he stated in particular: "The draft agreement which we have just signed is a continuation of the economic and technical agreement signed in October 1977." "This draft agreement," he stressed, "is the result of efforts to assess the achievements made in previous years and to define action to be taken in the future." "This draft agreement," he also stressed, "offers new opportunities for cooperation in the agriculture, agricultural machinery and building spheres."

"On behalf of the Algerian Government," the interior minister said, "I would like to express Algeria's wish to pursue our relations and extend them in several spheres." "I would like," he added, "to express our political will to continue the common struggle against imperialism, colonialism, Zionism and racism." Finally he expressed satisfaction at the relations between Algeria and the GDR.

Mr Mittag then said: "We have just signed a document which, together with the other arrangements and agreements reached during our visit, form a sound basis for continuing the dynamic development of friendly relations which have long existed between our parties, states and peoples." "This favorable development and its prospects," he said, "were recently praised by Erich Honecker, SED Central Committee secretary general and chairman of the GDR Council of State, during the Algerian exhibition's visit to the Leipzig International Spring Fair." "Cooperation between the GDR and Algeria in many spheres has flourished remarkably in recent years," Mr Mittag also stressed.

He also declared that "the agreements signed, which are of an all-embracing and long-term nature, take account both of the GDR's interests and capabilities and the main aspects of Algeria's economic development is defined by the fourth National Liberation Front congress. Therefore we can justifiably say that the agreements are in the interests of the two parties and will benefit the two states and peoples. In view of our relations in general, which bear the stamp of traditional friendship and anti-imperialist solidarity, we think that this is only natural."

"At the same time," he said, "we assure you, dear Algerian friends, that we will do everything in our power to translate the content of the documents signed here into action, together with you and in a friendly and constructive way."

"As our visit draws to a close I think I can say we have worked well together and our work will bear fruit in relations between the GDR and the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria," Mr Mittag also stressed.

Moreover Mr Mittag said that he noted with satisfaction after views had been exchanged that "the GDR and the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria are equally strongly committed to maintaining and safeguarding peace, and to arms limitation, disarmament and the elimination of all hotbeds of conflict." "The GDR," he specified, "appreciates the active role played by Algeria in maintaining the nonalined countries' unity." "We share our Algerian friends' concern at the deterioration of the situation sparked off by aggressive imperialist circles in various regions of the world and which seriously threatens the interests of all peace-loving peoples," he concluded.

Mittag Meets With Officials

LD291413 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 23 Mar 80 p 2 LD

[APS report: "Mr Abdelghani Receives the Secretary of the GDR's Socialist Unity Party"]

[Text] Algiers--Mr Abdelghani, Politburo member and prime minister, received Mr Guenter Mittag, Politburo member and secretary of the Socialist Unity Party of the GDR, at the government palace Saturday.

The talks, which considered the evolution of the diverse cooperation linking the GDR and Algeria for many years, took place in the presence of Mr Mohamed Liassine, Central Committee member, heavy industry minister and chairman of the Algeria-GDR joint commission; Mohamed Salah Dembri, secretary general at the Foreign Ministry; Belkacem Ben Yahia, Algerian ambassador to the GDR; and Director for Socialist Countries at the Foreign Ministry Deroum (for the Algerian side); and Dr Gerhad Beil, state secretary for foreign trade, and Dr Willerding, deputy foreign minister and GDR ambassador to Algeria (for the GDR). Both delegations agreed that relations in all spheres are excellent.

Mr Abdelghani and Mr Mittag made an expert review of work currently in hand with the aim of developing and extending cooperation. Mr Guenter Mittag was also received yesterday by Mr Boualem Benhamouda, FLN Politburo member and interior minister, and by Mr Abdelhamid Brahimi, minister for planning and national development, with whom he discussed prospects for strengthening economic relations between Algeria and the GDR.

DOCUMENT ISSUED ON ALGERIAN-BENIN ECONOMIC TALKS

LD291545 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 20 Mar 80 p 3 LD

[APS report: "Signing of the Record of Discussions Between Algeria and Benin"]

[Text] Algiers--A record of the discussions between Algeria and Benin was signed Wednesday at the Hotel Aurassi by Mr Selim Saadi, FLN Central Committee member and minister for agriculture and agrarian reform, (for the Algerian side); and Mr Roger Garba, member of the Politburo and the Central Committee of the Benin People's Revolutionary Party and minister for state farms, livestock and fishery [as published] (for Benin).

The document states that discussions between the two parties touched particularly on the conditions for realizing agricultural plans and technical assistance and development between the two countries.

Furthermore, it states that "with regard to the privileged relations which exist between the two countries as well as to their common political orientation, the Algerian party, in keeping with the 24 October 1979 intergovernmental accord, reaffirms its wish to contribute to the economic development of the People's Republic of Benin."

The document also states that, within its means, the Algerian party expressed its wish to meet Benin's request for technical assistance and development. For its part, the Benin party greatly thanked its Algerian counterpart for the warm and fraternal welcome it received during its stay in Algeria. The Benin minister invited his Algerian counterpart to pay a friendly visit to the People's Republic of Benin.

Finally, the two delegations expressed their desire for the development and broadening of their bilateral relations in the interest of both sides. The Benin delegation was in Algeria from 15 through 20 March, and carried out the decisions of the third session of the Algeria-Benin joint committee which met in Cotonou from 22 through 24 October 1979.

COOPERATION ACCORD SIGNED WITH JAMAICAN PARTY LEADERS

LD291411 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 14-15 Mar 80 p 2 LD

[APS report: "Signing of an Agreement Protocol Between Algeria and Jamaica"]

[Text] Algiers--Talks between the FLN and the Jamaican People's National Party [PNP] were sealed by yesterday's signing at party headquarters in the Zirout Youcef palace of an agreement procotol which formalizes the links of friendship and cooperation which unite the two parties.

Before the signing of this protocol the two delegations, led respectively by Dr Mohamed Amir, Politburo member and president of the FLN commission on social affairs, and PNP General Secretary Donald K. Duncan, also had talks at party headquarters.

During these talks the two parties exchanged information concerning the two countries' bilateral relations, particularly in the economic sphere, and made a broad review of the international situation, which is dominated by imperialism's aggressiveness in its attempts to destabilize the progressive countries. The Jamaican party delegation, in Algeria since Friday, earlier had talks with Mr M'hamed Yala, Central Committee member and finance minister.

ENVOY'S MEETING WITH USSR'S DEMICHEV REPORTED

LD261004 Algiers Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 29 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Al-'Ayyashi Yakir, Algerian ambassador to the Soviet Union, has been received by Petr Demichev, member of the CPSU Politburo and minister of culture. The meeting dealt with the development of Algerian-Soviet cooperation and certain international problems of mutual interest.

KUWAITI OIL MINISTER ARRIVES FOR TALKS

LD291440 Algiers APS in French 1100 GMT 29 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Algiers--"Oil prices depend on the attitude of the consuming countries," Kuwaiti Oil Minister 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah said on his arrival today at the Houari Boumediene airport in Algiers. Mr 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah was met by Belkacem Nabi, minister of energy and petrochemical industries and member of the Central Committee.

"We shall encourage all measures by the consuming countries aimed at cutting down oil consumption," the Kuwaiti minister said.

Mr 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah stressed that reductions in consumption will result in a considerable reduction in the pressure put by the world market on the producing countries, a fact which will enable the latter to produce under reasonable circumstances, thus not endangering future generations.

Regarding the specific matter of prices, the Kuwaiti minister said he was optimistic. "The world market is very favorable," he said. He let it be known that no price increase is envisaged at present but that such an increase is not to be ruled out if the market requires it. The responsibility for such an increase would be taken by the consuming countries, the minister emphasized. He recalled the latest "reasonable" decisions taken by the OPEC countries despite the difficult situation on the oil market.

Meeting With Prime Minister

LD292140 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 29 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Kuwaiti Oil Minister 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah left Algiers at noon today after a short visit to Algeria. He was received by brother Abdelghani, prime minister and member of the Political Bureau. He also had talks with Belkacem Nebi, minister of energy and petrochemical industries.

In a statement before his depature from Houari Boumediene International Airport, the Kuwaiti minister said that Kuwait and Algeria have identical points of view concerning action in the interest of OPEC.

In reply to a question about steps to be taken towards the forthcoming OPEC conference to be held in Algiers, the Kuwaiti minister emphasized the importance of streamlining the views of all member states and expressed optimism that the conference, like other conferences held in Algeria, will be a success.

LIBYAN, IRANIAN OIL MINISTERS ARRIVE IN ALGIERS 30 MAR

LD302130 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 30 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The oil ministers of the Libyan Jamahiriyah and of Iran have been in Algiers since this afternoon. They are to begin a series of discussions with their Algerian counterpart, Mr. Belkacem Nebi, who welcomed them when they arrived at the Houari Boumediene airport. In a statement to the press the two ministers stressed the need for joint action with a view to defending the interests of the OPEC member countries. They (?also) advocated controlling the production of the exporting countries, given the increase in the consumption [words indistinct] and the implications of that increase at the level of commercialization.

Meeting with Abdelghani

LD312125 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 31 Mar 80 LD

[Text] This morning Prime Minister Abdelghani received Public Health Minister Abderrazak Bouhara on the eve of the minister's departure to the PRC and Kuwait on an official visit.

This afternoon Abdelghani received the Libyan and the Iranian oil ministers, 'Abd as-Salam Zaq'ar and 'Ali Akbar Mo'infar, and discussed issues of common interest in the fields of oil and gas, and the energy situation in the world. The meeting was attended by the Algerian Minister of Energy and Petrochemical Industries Belkacem Nabi and by the ambassador of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in Algeria.

IRAN'S OIL MINISTER MO'INFAR ARRIVES IN TRIPOLI

LD290932 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 29 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Tripoli--'Ali Akbar Mo'infar, Iran's oil minister, arrived in Tripoli last night for a visit to consolidate and develop means of cooperation in oil relations between the two countries. Mo'infar will also attend the meetings of the fifth anti-oil monopolies conference now being held in Tripoli.

Meets Libyan Oil Minister

LD291944 Tripoli JANA in English 1817 GMT 29 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Tripoli, March 29, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The oil secretary, 'Abd as-Salam az-Zaq'ar, today met 'Ali Akbar Mo'infar, member of the Iranian Revolutionary Command Council and minister of oil, who arrived in Tripoli yesterday on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahirayah. They discussed ways of strengthening and developing bilateral cooperation in the field of oil.

Praises Libyan Oil Policy

LD291945 Tripoli JANA in English 1826 GMT 29 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Tripoli, March 29, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The Iranian oil minister, 'Ali Akbar Mo'infar, commended the policy pursued by the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in the international oil market.

Speaking at this morning's session of the fifth international conference on anti-oil monopolies in Tripoli, he said: "Following the establishment of the grand al-Fatah revolution by the will of the Libyan Arab people and under the leadership of Colonel Mu'ammar Qadhdhafi, Libya has come to exert considerable influence on the policies of the oil exporting countries. The Libyan Arab people have put a stop to imperialism, monopolies and imperialist intervention in the region."

Speaks at Conference

LD291946 Tripoli JANA in English 1828 GMT 29 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Tripoli, March 29, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The Iranian petroleum minister, Mr 'Ali Akbar Mo'infar, said in a speech delivered today to the international anti-oil monopolies conference in Tripoli, that the current prices of oil favour the giant multinational monopolies and are detrimental to the peoples of oil producing and developing nations. These depressed prices, he said, enable neocolonialism to usurp the resources of peoples throughout the world. Mr Mo'infar said oil prices even now are less than the prices of bottled mineral waters.

ANTI-OIL MONOPOLIES CONFERENCE ENDS 30 MAR

LD310952 Tripoli JANA in English 0840 GMT 31 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Tripoli, March 31, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The fifth international anti-oil monopolies conference which had started on the 26th of March, ended yesterday evening in Tripoli.

BEGIN ASKED TO TAKE UP USSR EMIGRATION WITH CARTER

TA301719 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 30 Mar 80 TA

[Text] The Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee has asked the prime minister to ask President Carter and heads of Jewish organizations not to regard the dropouts coming from the Soviet Union as refugees because they are, in fact, citizens returning to their home country, Israel. The prime minister is to do this during his upcoming visit to Washington. In a majority vote the committee called on the government and the Jewish Agency to implement the previous resolution and sever all relations with the Jewish charity organizations known as the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

MK Me'ir Pa'il of Shelli, who opposes such resolutions, said the government should see to it that Jews can be absorbed in every country and at any time and not thwart their wishes. Every attempt to oppose the immigration of Jews to America, Pa'il said, is taking Jewishness and humanity away from Zionism.

BORDER WITH EGYPT TO OPEN WITNIN 2 WEEKS

TA310510 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 31 Mar 80 TA

[Text] The land border between Israel and Egypt will be open to free passage of vehicles within 2 weeks. This was determined in a transportation agreement signed by Israel and Egypt last night. Drivers will have to be equipped with visas, car licenses and international driving licenses. This is reported by our correspondent Gadi Sukenik.

YEDI'OT AHARONOT EVALUATES BEGIN'S UPCOMING DISCUSSION WITH CARTER

TA310936 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 31 Mar 80 p 1 TA

[By Arye Tzimuqi]

[Text] The prime minister said "no" to Ambassador Linowitz to subjects on which the U.S. ambassador approached him on but will apparently say "yes" to Carter on the very same issues.

The prime minister intends to make some good-will gestures on the autonomy issues in his meetings with President Carter. Among other things Begin will apparently agree to extend the powers of the autonomy's self-government. He will also consent to set up a security committee in the framework of the autonomy negotiations. This committee is supposed to determine the nature of Israel's security needs.

Begin will hold three long talks with Carter on 15 and 16 April. A special cabinet political debate will be held prior to Begin's trip to Washington.

In his talks with Carter Begin also intends to raise the subject of granting refugees' rights in the United States to the Vienna dropouts.

Yesterday Begin met with various ministers in an attempt to find an agreed formula for legislation that will guarantee Jewish settlement right throughout Eretz Yisra'el.

Disagreements have evolved among the ministers regarding the need for such a new law. Ministers such as Tamir, Ehrlich, and Yadin claim such a law is not needed.

The government legal adviser also rules out the need for new legislation.

In view of the situation it is doubtful whether the subject will be brought to the Cabinet for discussion before Begin's trip to Washington.

ENERGY MINISTER MODA'I RETURNS FROM U.S.

'Oil Supply Is Risky'

TA301841 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 30 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Energy Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i says the U.S. commitment to supply oil to Israel can be relied upon even if a state of emergency occurs in the United States. According to him, I rael's situation in the sphere of oil supply is risky, since Israel is buying most of its fuel from chancy sources. He noted that last year Israel tried unsuccessfully to purchase oil from England, Norway and from two African countries.

Statement on Trip

TA301842 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 30 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Energy Minister Moda'i sums up his trip to Washington, during which he met with Secretary of State Cyprus Vance and Energy Secretary Charles Duncan:

[Begin Moda'i recording] It looks like we will have to call upon the United States to help us in meeting our oil requirements. Now, we are aware of connotations, public ones, congressional ones, media; and this is the reason why we would like to use...utilize the guarantee to the minimum extent possible, but if we have on balance the security of oil supplied to the State of Israel and the important but secondary inconvenience of some negative public opinion, I'm afraid the choice is absolutely clear. [end recording]

Supply Problems

TA301954 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 30 Mar 80 TA

[Text] The U.S. administration promised to examine next month Israel's request regarding the implementation of the commitment to supply oil, says Energy Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i in an interview on this program. Israel's request of the United States to implement its commitment was submitted by Minister Moda'i last week in his meetings with the U.S. Secretaries of State and of Energy. The reason for the request was the uncertainty and improbability of some one half of Israel's oil purchases. Our correspondent Avi Angel spoke with the energy minister: [Begin videotape]

[Angel] Israel, which lacks oil resources of its own, purchases oil from two official sources: Mexico, the chief source for 2.5 million tons, and Egypt, 2 million tons from the 'Alma oilfield. The rest, 3.5 million tons, is being purchased on the speculative Rotterdam spot market. The request now is to exchange the spot-market sources for a stable U.S. source--oil from Alaska to the oil terminal in Elat. How do we fare in the spot-market sources?

[Moda'i] Very badly. Last year, in the first quarter of the year, we concluded and signed contracts to supply our oil requirements for that entire year. Only a few months later, however, we realized that only a fifth of the amount we purchased, which we had been promised, less than a fifth was, in fact, going to be supplied. To make up for the missing part, to make up for the four-fifths that disappeared, we had to sign dozens of contracts, I repeat, dozens of supply contracts--naturally for prices found in a sellers' market--and under the same terms; namely, even after we signed the new contracts, we were not sure that the oil will be supplied.

[Angel] This is an oilfield in the North Sea. [picture of offshore rig shown] An Israeli request to England and Norway to purchase oil there was rejected. The United States tried to use its influence, but this was of no avail. Israel is asking the United States to recognize the gravity of the situation, in which half of the fuel in this terminal--one of the Israeli oil terminals--[unidentified terminal shown] was purchased by spot-market contracts for record prices in the international market. But does our demand not have a political aspect, at a time when our dependence on the United States is progressively increasing?

[Moda'i] Israel is asking now because the agreement became valid only on 26 November. This agreement is actually a reward given to Israel for conceding the oilfield at Abu Rudays and, now, recently, for conceding the 'Alma oilfield. This was the only guarantee, by virtue of which we could begin thinking about forfeiting such primary oil resources, so why then is there all this wondering? [end videotape]

PONCET, AMBASSADOR ROSENNE DISCUSS ISRAEL'S NEGOTIATING POSITION

TA311135 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 31 Mar 80 TA

[Text] French Foreign Minister Jean-Francois Poncet summoned the Israeli ambassador to Paris, Dr Me'ir Rosenne. At the end of the meeting, the ambassador told our correspondent that the talk was conducted in a friendly atmosphere. Rosenne explained Israel's positions on the [peace] negotiations and rejected the French initiatives regarding the Palestinian issue. Our correspondent has learned that notwithstanding the friendly atmosphere of the meeting the parties did not reach any agreement.

BRITISH AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO NAVON

TA271258 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 27 Mar 80 TA

[Text] In Jerusalem this morning, John Robinson, the new British ambassador to Israel, presented his credentials to President Navon. Mark Lavi reports:

Robinson, a veteran of three decades in the foreign service, had an animated half-hour chat with President Navon after presenting his letter of credentials. The new British ambassador comes here from Washington, where he was the No 2 man in the British Embassy there. Other highlights in his career have been a stint as ambassador to Algeria and a part in the negotiations that brought Britain into the Common Market. Robinson told me that Britain and the Common Market believe the best way forward in the Middle East now is to follow the Camp David Accord through. I asked him how this sits with the initiative on the part of some Europeans toward recognizing the PLO. [begin recording]

[Robinson] Palestinians have a crucial part in the peace process if Camp David is to succeed in what it set out to succeed in, which is a comprehensive settlement of the problems in the area. It's idle to suppose that one can totally ignore the PLO. They are there and they are an important factor in the Palestinian complex.

[Lavi] There are those who wonder why Europe has a role in the Middle East at all, unless, of course, it's oil.

[Robinson] Well, I think, well, I see what you mean when you quote that view. I think it's a legitimate concern of all Europeans, including my countrymen and countrywomen, to see what they can do to avoid a situation arising in a part of the world, the Middle East, which is, if it goes wrong, going to hurt everybody including Europeans. That is the raison d'etre for their interest in seeing a solution to the problem.

[Lavi] If that's their raison d'etre, as you put it, then it seems to me you would be prepared to sacrifice Israel for that aim.

[Robinson] I said a comprehensive settlement of all the problems in the area and peace and there's no question but that, as we see it, Israel is a part of the settlement we want to see. [end recording]

[Lavi] Robinson replaces John Mason as Britain's top diplomat in Israel and will probably serve here 3 or 4 years.

FALASTIN BANK ACCEPTS SUPERVISION OF ISRAELI BANK EXAMINER

TA311215 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 31 Mar 80 TA

[Text] The board of directors of the Falastin Bank in Gaza has agreed to put the bank under the supervision of the Israeli bank examiner. Sources in the Bank of Israel told our correspondent Bassam Ja'bar that good chances have thus been created for resuming the bank's activities in the Gaza Strip.

LAND DAY COMMERCIAL STRIKES IN WEST BANK, GAZA REPORTED

TA300914 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 30 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Today there are partial commercial strikes in some West Bank towns because of Land Day. However the strikes are not total and in some places there are no strikes. Our correspondents Pinhas 'Inbari and Arye Gus report that the strike is total in Hebron and Ramallah and shops are also closed in Janin and Tulkarm, but the market is open in Tulkarm. Quiet has been maintained in all places.

The military government took certain measures to prevent disturbances, including extending the holiday period in West Bank schools until the middle of the week and also setting up road blocks on the outskirts of the towns. In Nabulus a stone was thrown at a truck this morning and its windscreen was broken.

There was a commercial strike in Gaza until 1000 this morning. Our correspondent Bassam Ja'bar reports that commercial life is now returning to normal. Mayor Rashad as-Shawwa told our correspondent that the strike was only symbolic because the total paralysis of life would harm the residents themselves.

Our correspondents say that some of the shops may be closed because of the Christian festival Palm Sunday.

Our correspondent Dani Nishlis reports from the Galilee that school in the Arab villages is being conducted normally and there are no disturbances. The workers went to work as usual.

WEIZMAN REJECTED PROPOSAL TO EXPEL HEBRON MAYOR

TA301017 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 30 Mar 80 p 1 TA

[Text] Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman has rejected a proposal submitted by security elements in charge of the territories to expel Hebron Mayor Fahd al-Qawasimi in the wake of the remarks he made last Monday in a rally held at the Hebron municipality building. These elements are of the opinion that such phenomena should be firmly dealt with since they actually constitute a call for rebellion and because that was the only way to calm the imminent ferment.

It has been learned that Mr Weizman rejected the proposal as well as another proposal to put al-Qawasimi on trial fearing a recurrence of the Bassam ash-Shak'ah affair. The defense minister decided to make do with a severe reprimand and warning to the Hebron mayor and the shari'ah qadi of Hebron, Shaykh Rajib (Biod al-Tamimi), whose remarks during the rally were the most radical. Shaykh (al-Tamimi) did not give the sermon at the Makhpela Cave last Friday on the orders of the Hebron military governor.

WEST BANK MILITARY GOVERNMENT BANS HEBRON RALLIES

TA311847 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 31 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Today the military government informed the Qiryat Arba' administration and the Hebron municipality that it will not allow rallies and marches on Wednesday, the day after tomorrow. The military government will put up roadblocks at the entrances to Hebron and Qiryat Arba' and will prevent the entry of people from the West Bank who have been invited to protest Jewish settlement of Hebron. It will also prevent the entry of Jews who come to demonstrate in favor of Jewish settlement in Hebron.

CONTACTS MADE BETWEEN GAZA NOTABLES, EGYPTIAN ADMINISTRATION

TA270953 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 27 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Several notables and public figures from the Gaza Strip are maintaining regular contacts with heads of the Egyptian administration but, because of the sensitivity of the issue, both sides are opting to keep the contents secret. This has been learned by our correspondent Bassam Ja'bar. Most of the contacts are being held between Gaza Strip notables and Egyptian Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali and Defense Minister Kamal 'Ali.

FIVE-NATION SUMMIT IN MAPUTO ISSUES JOINT COMMUNIQUE

LD312015 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1707 GMT 31 Mar 80 LD/EA

[Text] Presidents Jose Eduardo dos Santos of Angola, Manuel Pinto da Costa of Sao Tome and Principe, Aristides Pereira of Cape Verde and Luis Cabral of Guinea-Bissau left Maputo today after yesterday's closing session of the second summit of the heads of state, including Mozambique's head of state.

The closing session of the second summit of the heads of state of Mozambique, Angola, Sao Tome and Principe, Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde was marked by the signing by the supreme leaders of the those countries of a general agreement on cooperation, which defines the bases of mutual assistance in the fields of trade, transport, finance, banking and insurance.

Following this ceremony, the chairman of the Mozambique and Sao Tome commission read the joint communique. The communique says in part that at the opening session the heads of state observed 1 minute of silence in tribute to the memory of President Agostinho Neto, a first class comrade in arms, one of the most distinguished and respected leaders of the liberation struggle in Africa, and a great promoter of the ideas of this summit.

Continuing the reading, Jacinto Velose said:

[Begin Velose recording] The conference was held in the spirit of the need to strengthen and diversify the beneficial relations of multilateral cooperation and solidarity characterizing the ties of political fraternity forged in the struggle against the common enemy. (?Within this framework) the conference reaffirmed its conviction that the experience gained in the political, military and diplomatic fronts in the liberation of the land and men of Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and Sao Tome and Principe must be used and transformed into dynamic factors to enable these countries, in an organized manner, to carry on the fight to consolidate the victories already won and to effect the social and economic development of the five countries. In this context, the heads of state have signed a general agreement on economic cooperation, which establishes the basic principles to govern relations between the give countries in the fields of trade, transport, finance, banking and insurance.

The heads of state also examined the possibilities for cooperation in the fields of education, culture, information, justice, sports, health and other areas, and decided that these possibilities should be systematically studied in order to strengthen and broaden multilateral cooperation between the five countries.

The heads of state also underscored the importance of the cooperation they have established within the framework of current relations in Africa to enable African countries to formulate a new strategy for the social and economic development of the continent. In this context, the heads of state discussed the forthcoming Lusaka summit and the conference of the OAU heads of state and government, and also touched on economic problems. They attached particular importance to the need to adopt concrete measures for the solution of Africa's crucial problems; namely, self-sufficiency in food, transport and communications.

Analyzing the political situation in Africa, the heads of state noted with satisfaction the significant advances of the national liberation movements in their just struggle against imperialism, colonialism, racism and apartheid, and for the triumph of peace, liberty and the social progress of peoples.

The conference hailed the people of Zimbabwe, ZANU-PF and the Government of National Unity which has been constituted as a result of the victory won in Zimbabwe, which in turn is the result of the armed struggle of national liberation against the colonial, illegal, racist and minority regime. They reiterated their unreserved support for and militant solidarity with the national reconstruction of an independent, united, democratic and antiracist Zimbabwe.

However, the heads of state noted that there prevails a grave threat to peace and security in the region, because of the illegal occupation of Namibia, the existence of the apartheid regime in South Africa and because of that regime's repeated attacks on neighboring countries. The heads of state reaffirmed their support for and militant solidarity with the national liberation struggle of the people of Namibia under the leadership of SWAPO, their sole and legitimate representative, against South Africa's colonial occupation of their territory, including Walvis Bay. The summit vehemently denounced the gross maneuvers of the racist Pretoria regime to perpetuate its colonial and illegal occupation of Namibia, in flagrant violation of the resolutions of the UN Security Council, particularly Resolution No 435 of 1979.

The summit resolutely supported the efforts of Angola and the other Frontline States to bring about a rapid and just settlement to the problem of Namibia and the restoration of peace in the region by demanding the immediate implementation of the UN plan for the independence of Namibia. The heads of state vigorously condemned the repeated attacks' made by South African forces on Angola and the Republic of Zambia, and demanded the immediate cessation of these acts of aggression.

The heads of state reaffirmed their support for and militant solidarity with the South African people led by the African National Congress in their struggle against the inhuman apartheid regime.

The heads of state reiterated their solidarity with the just struggle of the Saharan people led by their vanguard, the POLISARIO Front, against Moroccan occupation. They expressed joy over the fact that the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic was progressively gaining recognition by the international community.

The heads of state also reaffirmed their support for the (Mauber) people and their vanguard, FRETILIN, in the just struggle against the Indonesian occupation of East Timor.

The heads of state reaffirmed their unreserved support for the Palestinian people and their vanguard, the PLO, in their just struggle against the Zionist aggression and occupation of their territory and for the achievement of their inalienable rights to self-determination and national independence.

The heads of state decided to meet annually for the purpose of analyzing the degree to which their agreements have been implemented and to define new guidelines for the promotion of relations between the five countries. The next summit will be held in the Republic of Guniea-Bissau during the first half of next year.

The summit noted with satisfaction the work done by the ministerial preparatory commission created at the first summit held in Luanda, which enabled the five countries to intensify their cooperation in priority sectors by submitting proposals and concrete programs, thereby contributing to the success of the present conference.

The summit noted with satisfaction the high spirit of comradeship and friendship which prevailed during the discussions and the similarity of views on all issues raised.

The heads of state of the People's Republic of Angola, the Republic of Cape Verde, the republic of Guinea-Bissau and the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe expressed their heartfelt thanks to the people of Mozambique, the FRELIMO Party and to President Samora Moise Machel for the warm hospitality accorded them, thereby contributing very much to the success achieved at the present summit. [end recording]

ETHIOPIA

FOREIGN MINISTER WARNS AGAINST SENDING ARMS TO SOMALIA

LD301530 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in English 1015 GMT 30 Mar LD/EA

[Text] Socialist Ethiopia and the Republic of Kenya have warned certain imperialist powers that any delivery of arms to Somalia can only exacerbate the already existing dangerous situation in the region. Declaring this yesterday, Comrade Col Dr Gedle-Giorgis Feleke, minister of foreign affairs, who returned yesterday at the head of the high-level Ethiopian delegation after participating in the 28th joint Ethiopian-Kenyan ministerial consulting committee meeting, told journalists at the airport, among other things: We have shown great concern with respect to the activities of certain imperialist powers in arming Somalia. Both countries have urged all countries to refrain from arming Somalia and have warned those countries that any delivery of arms to Somalia only exacerbates the already dangerous situation in the region. Both countries, Comrade Dr Feleke said, have indicated to the world that their struggle is for peace, justice and progress in the area, in contrast to the expansionist policy of Somalia.

The foreign minister said that issues of common concern had been discussed by the consultative committee, which had met in Mombasa and Nairobi. He was proud to say that the two delegations had come to a significant progress [as heard] as compared to the past. The two countries have shown great interest to strengthen their relations, taking into account the developments taking place in the area. The discussion covered not only the present situation as far as defense and security are concerned, but also other fields like trade, economic matters, transport and communications, and tourism.

We have come to a complete understanding and the complete identity of views clearly shows that the two countries are strengthening their relations, the foreign minister said. Comrade Col Dr Feleke added: We have communicated to our brothers in Kenya that we highly (?rate) our relations with Kenya. We were received in audience by His Excellency President Daniel Arap Moi when we presented to him a special message from Comrade Chairman Haile Mariam Mengistu. We have come back with success and have also brought a special message from His Excellency President Daniel Arap Moi to Comrade Chairman Mengistu. The foreign minister said that the communique and the various documents signed over all fields of cooperation between the two countries. [sentence as heard]

KENYA

JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON MEETING WITH ETHIOPIA RELEASED 30 MAR

LD011245 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 30 Mar 80 LD/EA

["Full text" of the joint communique released by Kenya and Ethiopia--read by announcer]

[Text] The 28th Ethiopian-Kenyan joint ministerial commission meeting was held form 22 to 28 March 1980 in Mombasa, in the Republic of Kenya.

The delegates of the Provisional Military Government of socialist Ethiopia to the meeting were led by Comrade Col Dr Feleke Gedle-Giorgis, the minister of foreign affairs. The members of the delegation were: Comrade Yusuf Ahmed, minister of communications and transport; Comrade Maj Girma Yilma, minister of information and national guidance; Comrade Wole Chekol, minister of external trade; Comrade Lt Col Mersha Ketsela, permanent secretary of the Ministry of the Interior; Comrade Mengiste Desta, socialist Ethiopia's ambassador to Kenya; Comrade Brig Gen Merid Nuguse, chief of staff of the armed forces; Comrade Brig Gen Demise Bulto of the Ministry of Defense; Comrade Brig Gen Seyum Mekonen of the Ministry of Defense; Comrade Moges Habte Mariam, departmental head in the Ministry of Public and National Security; Comrade Dr Amare Tekle, departmental head in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Comrade Solomon Wolde Hana, acting departmental head in the Ministry of the Interior; Comrade Wesen Bahta, acting departmental head in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Comrade Lt Col Yohannes Gurmesa of the Ministry of Defense; Comrade Wondwesen Sahle of the Ministry of Mines, Energy and Water Resources; Comrades Aware Sebhatu, Zewdu Gebre Mariam and Bekele Kebede of the Ministry of Transport and Communications; Comrade Andarge Berhanu of the Ministry of Public and National Security; Comrade Yilma Mengesha, a member of the Ethiopian Embassy staff in Nairobi; Comrade Asmare Bihonegn of the Ministry of External Trade; Comrade Tesfaye Wolde Tensai of the Ethiopian Oil Seeds and Fruit Corp; Comrade Kasahun Jembere of the Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce; Comrade Gebru Habte Wolde of the Ministry of Industry; and Comrade Getachew Haile of the Ministry of Industry.

The delegation of the Republic of Kenya was led by the Hon Dr Robert Duko, member of Parliament and minister of foreign affairs of Kenya. Members of the delegation were: The Hon H.K. Kosgey, MP, minister of transport and communications; the Hon K. Munyi, MP, assistant minister in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Hon (?Mr) Okuku, MP, assistant minister in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting; the Hon F.A. Marita, MP, assistant minister in the Ministry of Agriculture; the Hon J.M. Angatia, assistant minister in the Ministry of Economic Development; the Hon E. Kiptanui, MP, assistant minister in the Ministry of Water Development; the Hon W. Kesiro, MP, assistant minister for commerce; Mr F.M. Njuguna, permanent secretary in the office of the president; Mr J. Muliro, permanent secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Hon Mr Nganatha, Kenyan ambassador to Ethiopia; Mr N. Ndoro, provincial commissioner of Tift Balley Province; Mr M. Ngugi, provincial commissioner of Western Province; Mr B. Kaaria, provincial commissioner of Northeastern Province; Mr Mwangi, provincial commissioner of Eastern Province; Brigadier [name indistinct] of the armed forces; and other senior government officials.

The meeting reviewed the minutes of the 27th ministerial consultative meeting held in Addis Ababa in 1976 and those of the meeting of Ethiopia and Kenya border administrators and commissioners held in Nakuru, which were approved. It discussed bilateral relations, continental and international issues and, in particular, conditions in the Horn of Africa, the Persian Gulf, the Indian Ocean and southern Africa. As on previous occasions, the discussions were held in a spirit of brotherhood and keen interest. The two sides, having expressed satisfaction at the happy relations linking the two sister countries, have agreed to develop cooperation and further strengthen their relations by cooperating for mutual benefit in the fields of trade, tourism, continental economic projects, transport and communications, the media, the patrolling of their borders and cultural exchanges.

The meeting was held in accordance with the friendship and cooperation agreement signed by President Daniel Arap Moi and Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council and commander in chief of the revclutionary army, during the Kenyan president's visit to socialist Ethiopia.

The two sides have agreed to coexist in a spirit of mutual understanding and on the basis of the agreements reached between the two countries in various fields.

The two sides have agreed that the foreign ministers of the two countries will implement the decisions made by the joint ministerial consultative commission meeting, thus to promote further cooperation.

Discussing the Horn of Africa, the two sides said they were pleased with the improvement of relations between Ethiopia and Sudan, noting that this would contribute toward the peace, stability, development, cooperation and goodneighborliness of the countries of the region.

The two sides confirmed their continued observance of the resolutions and charters of the United Nations and the OAU which, in particular, call for respect for territorial integrity and national independence, inviolability of borders and noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries.

The two sides expressed great anxiety over the illegal movements being carried out by Somalia in the areas bordering the two countries. The two countries firmly condemned the territorial claims made against them by the Somali Government, which is responsible for the tension and insecurity in the region. The two sides reaffirmed their resolve to defend their territories in accordance with the principles and resolutions of the OAU and on the basis of the friendship and cooperation agreement signed by the two countries.

Both sides called on all countries to refrain from arming the Mogadishu regime, which is continuing with its expansionist and aggressive aims in the Horn of Africa, and added that such an act would be considered tantamount to an attack against the two countries, as it would encourage Mogadishu's expansionist aims.

The two sides called for the establishment of a spirit of good neighborliness and cooperation, so that the leaders could improve the standard of living of their respective peoples.

Regarding southern Africa, the meeting congratulated the prime minister-designate, Mr Robert Mugabe, and the other Zimbabwean patriots on their victory in the recent elections. The two sides wished Prime Minister-designate Robert Mugabe and his government good luck and pledged to give any necessary support within their powers for the struggle to safeguard the independence recently attained by the Zimbabwean revolution. The meeting expressed its conviction that Zimbabwe's independence would contribute toward the struggle for the liberation of Namibia and South Africa.

The [Ethiopian] delegation visited various development projects in the Coast, Eastern and Central Provinces: the Mamburi cement factory; the Kenya peanut factory; the Kenya food canning factory; the Athi River cement factory; (Marehra) farmers' training institute and tea and coffee processing factories in Muranga and Kiambu districts.

The Ethiopian delegation expressed gratitude to His Excellency President Daniel Arap Moi and the party, government and brotherly people of Kenya for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded them during their stay in the Republic of Kenya.

The 29th Ethiopian-Kenyan joint interministerial consultative meeting will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 1981 on a date to be fixed later.

UGANDA

FINANCE MINISTER WARNS AGAINST SMUGGLING

LD301903 Kampala International Service in English 1700 GMT 30 Mar 80 LD/EA

[Excerpt] The minister of finance, Mr Ssentongo, has warned that unless Ugandans tighten their belts and think as nationalists, the country will not solve its political problems and forge ahead. The minister, who was officially opening a UNLF branch office for Rukungiri district [in western Uganda] challenged those opposed to the UNLF government to come out and say what they want to add on to the four principles of the front or what they want to omit. He explained that the National Executive Committee of the UNLF has decided that the elections should be held under the UNLF umbrella, because they believe that it is under this umbrella that Uganda will forge ahead.

On objectives and priorities the minister said that the first priority is to secure the borders of our country and people's property. The second priority is to improve the transport sector. The third priority is to organize (?every) industry.

On emergency supplies to hungerstricken areas the minister said he had visited friendly countries, who have already started sending in foodstuffs. He said that the government has also set aside a sum of money to purchase foodstuffs like posho [corn flour] and rice. But, the minister said, the solution is not to import but to produce our own food stuffs and ensure constant supplies.

The minister again condemned smuggling. He said in future if a lorry is caught smuggling coffee it will be sold to the Ugandan Coffee Marketing Board and the lorry will be auctioned and part of the money will go to the nyumba kumi which caught it.

The chairman of the Rukungiri UNLF district branch, Mr (Sario), said that in spite of efforts being put in by kyumba kumi in arresting smugglers, they are being frustrated by authorities who were releasing the culprits before they are taken to courts of law. He said this is very sad, disappointing, regrettable and lamentable.

FOREIGN MINISTER URGES PEOPLE TO UNITE EFFORTS

LD301833 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 30 Mar 80 LD/EA

[Excerpt] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Otem Alimadi, has called on Ugandans to join hands and redouble their efforts to rebuild whatever was destroyed by dictator Amin. Speaking at the opening ceremony at the Soroti UNLF branch office, Mr Alimadi said the government is doing all it can to rebuild Uganda into a strong nation. The minister once again appealed to all Ugandans never to permit another Amin to develop himself in the country. Mr Alimadi said that the lesson learned during the 8 years was a bitter one and historical, adding that even those who celebrated Amin's takeover have nor regretted it.

CHAD

BATTLE IN NDJAMENA CONTINUES TO 10TH DAY

AB311232 Paris AFP in French 1018 GMT 31 Mar 80 AB

[Excerpt] Ndjamena, 31 Mar (AFP)--Fighting resumed in Ndjamena on Monday at dawn after a night's truce, thus bringing the civil war in Chad between the People's Armed Forces (FAP) of President Goukouni Oueddei and the Northern Armed Forces (FAN) of the minister of defense, Mr Hissein Habre, to its 10th day.

To observers in the Chadian capital, all chances of settling the conflict in a political way seemed slimmer than ever on Monday morning. The cease-fire which was concluded by telephone between the two opposing factions at midday on Sunday was not respected and the 2-hour meeting held in the afternoon at the Ndjamena cathedral between three representatives of the two warring factions did not lead to a settlement.

Another meeting is expected to be held in Ndjamena on Monday, but the time has not been fixed.

Meanwhile fighting continued on Monday morning with the same intensity, while the nucleus of the neutral force which had been in Ndjamena since last January, in accordance with the Lagos agreement signed by the 11 heads of the Chadian factions, continues its withdrawal. The Congolese Army authorities have conducted four rotations to repatriate the 550 Congolese soldiers who constitute this force, as well as their material. Since their arrival, these soldiers had been stationed in the national police force headquarters, near the Ndjamena airport. The departure of the Congolese, who were never joined by the [words indistinct].

It is very difficult at present to determine which of the two factions had advanced the most, as both are of equal strength, there is increased street fighting with automatic weapons fighting in the city which has been deserted by half of its inhabitants, most of whom have fled to neighboring Cameroon. Heavy weapons pound the opposing camps from all sectors.

We have very little information on the action of the Common Action Front, which is alleged to be aiding the People's Armed Forces, or on the Chadian Armed Forces of Vice President Kamougue, who are still alleged to be controlling the southern exit of the capital near the Chagoua bridge.

With regard to the heads of the other factions who do not have armies at their disposal, they are watching the fighting in the capital helplessly and waiting.

FAN Advancing

AB311440 Paris AFP in French 1409 GMT 31 Mar 80 AB

[Text] Ndjamena, 31 Mar (AFP)--The Armed Forces of the North (FAN) of Mr Hissein Habre have pushed forward in the north of Ndjamena, in the sector of Diguel, a spokesman of the movement stated this on Monday.

In a statement to AFP, the spokesman noted that on the 14th day of fighting in the Chadian capital, the frontline had not changed in the center and that the FAN troops were occupying the 13 April barracks, the gendarmerie and all the Muslim quarters. On the other hand, he added, the fighting which is going on now near the perimeter road took an unsuccessful turn for the People's Armed Forces (FAP of Goukouni Oueddei) late in the morning.

Congolese Withdrawal

AB011015 Paris AFP in Fench 0900 GMT 1 Apr 80 AB

[Text] Yaounde, 1 Apr (AFP)--Nearly 320 Congolese soldiers of the inter-African neutral force have already left Ndjamena for Garoua (in northern Cameroon), from whence they are being flown back to Brazzaville, reliable sources in Yaounde say.

Two Antonovs of the Congolese Army helped evacuate the contingents from Ndjamena to Garoua, and from there an Angolan Hercules C-130 took them back home. The Hercules-type plane can carry as many as 120 men with their equipment, the same sources add.

The total withdrawal of the Congolese troops should be completed by Tuesday evening, according to the same sources.

The 550 Congolese soldiers who arrived in Ndjamena in January as part of the African neutral force in order to insure the implementation of the Lagos agreement on the cease-fire were never joined by the Beninese and Guinean troops.

Statement on Move

AB011021 Paris AFP in French 0929 GMT 1 Apr 80 AB

[Text] Brazzaville, 1 Apr (AFP)--The Congolese Government announced in a statement published on Monday evening that when it decided to withdraw its troops from Chad, it was conscious of having done everything possible to do its duty toward Africa, the OAU and the Chadian people.

Nevertheless, the statement adds, Congo is ready to contribute to any solution likely to bring peace and unity in Chad. The Congolese Government launches an appeal to the various Chadian factions to take hold of themselves, lay down their arms and stop their pointless quarrels.

The statement underlines that the Congolese troops were alone in Chad, although the inter-African neutral force was supposed to comprise Guinea, Beninese and Congolese troops. The government is pleased with the calmness with which the Congolese troops resisted the appeals made to them and with their ability not to retaliate when their camp came under fire, the statement says.

The Brazzaville authorities recall the various missions undertaken by the Congolese Government to the OAU and Chad, in particular, the head of state, Mr Denis Sassou-Nguesso's mission to Monrovia to meet the current chairman of the OAU and his mission to Chad. A Congolese delegation composed of the army chief of staff, Lt Col Raymond Damas Ngollo, and the minister of the interior, Cmdr Francis Xavier Katali, was recently sent to Chad to try to obtain a cease-fire, the statement adds.

In this statement, the Congolese Government appeals to the conscience of Africa and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to help the Chadian people solve their problems and finally to build a united, independent and prosperous Chad.

Negotiations Blocked

AB011112 Paris AFP in English 1021 GMT 1 Apr 80 AB

[By Patrick van Roekeghem and Marc Pondaven]

[Excerpt] Ndjamena, Apr 1 (AFP)--Chad seems to be settling down into civil war after 10 days of fighting here. Fierce clashes continued last night in the capital between Defense Minister Hissein Habre's Armed Forces of the North (FAN) and President Goukouni Oueddei's People's Armed Forces (FAP).

Sporadic fighting and bursts of machinegun fire could be heard in the north and northeast of the capital, the center and in the customs area near the Chari River. But fighting appears to have died down a little with reinforcements brought into the city not causing the expected build-up in the battle.

Observers here said the relative lull could be caused by losses and a need for both sides to draw breath and prepare for major long term operations.

All negotiations appeared blocked, with telephone contacts between the two leaders apparently broken off. A meeting yesterday to study another cease-fire failed to take place, without any reason being given. This obviously showed that the belligerents were not in a hurry to reach a negotiated settlement, observers commented.

GABON

LE MATIN INTERVIEWS PRESIDENT BONGO

LD311127 Paris LE MATIN in French 18 Mar 80 p 9 LD

[Christian Casteran interview with Gabon President Omar Bongo in Libreville: "The President Is Giscardian"--date of interview not specified]

[Text] [Question] Mr President, your country has a very bad reputation. You are rich but what have you done with your money?

[Answer] We have done a great deal in 12 years. Did particular projects deserve to be carried out? Of course it is easy to ask that afterwards. However, 12 years ago Gabon bore no resemblance to what it has become. The colonial era left us nothing. This country had been made to be exploited. We produced but obtained nothing in exchange. Today we must clothe, care for and educate the Gabonese youth. That is what we are doing. There is a school in each of the nine provincial capitals. What about sanitary equipment? I do not know of another African country which has so much. We have introduced social security....

[Question] Nonetheless the experts have accused you of some underhanded dealings. For instance was this palace in which we are now sitting essential?

[Answer] Not only was it useful but has proved to be inadequate in view of the number of cadres who come to work here. Do you think that Versailles was prestige spending? I say it was not. You had to have the Elysee and the Palais Bourbon. This palace will remain as long as Gabon lives. Heads of state will come and go but the palace will remain.

[Question] Your extremely liberal oil policy is criticized by other OPEC members. The Gabonese state for instance only has 25 percent of ELF-Gabon's capital.

[Answer] We need a policy which tries to insure that Gabon becomes increasingly responsible and takes more of its decisions alone. The Gabonese must become responsible. We have 25 percent of ELF-Gabon's capital and we are selling some of our oil. We have had talks with ELF-Gabon but to increase our share of the capital we must be in a position to pay. Furthermore research is extremely expensive. When the time comes we will negotiate with ELF for a large state holding. Thus is my plan and my intention. However, it is better to discuss than take by force.

[Question] Your country is well-known as a paradise for the corrupt and for corruption....

[Answer] There have indeed been cases in which Lebanese or French people have succeeded in corrupting Gabonese customs officers and in which some officials--now in prison--have received bribes. We have a labor force of immigrants here many of whom have been expelled from their countries. When these people come into contact with Gabonese they try to corrupt them. However our tax inspectors go from company to company and uncover it all.

[Question] You are regarded as a henchmen of French neocolonialism. It is alleged for instance that Maurice Robert, former foreign intelligence and counterintelligence service [SDECE] colonel, was appointed ambassador to Libreville at your request.

[Answer] You French people are very odd. You are a LE MATIN journalist and we are meeting today for the first time. If, in 3 or 4 years your newspaper wants to appoint you as a correspondent here I will be asked to agree and I will do so. That does not mean that the Gabonese president will have influenced the decision to send you here. That is what happened with Ambassador Robert and, although I know him, that will not prevent him from carrying out his work here. The question of whether he is a career diplomat or not concerns the French. He was a member of the SDECE but do you think that the KGB and CIA are not represented here? That is how things are. What other people do in secret you do openly. However, all ambassadors, even mine, are authorized spies. This affair has been overplayed.

[Question] Mr President, are you a Giscardian?

[Answer] I first met Giscard in 1963. At that time I was a principle private secretary. We became friends. However if I had the opportunity to see Mitterrand I would do so. I spent my youth in the French section of the Worker's International....

[Question] Did you play a part in Bokassa's departure?

[Answer] We had warned Bokassa. We met him here in Franceville together with Rene Journiac in August. I said to him "you are trapped; what are you going to do?" He told me he was not the only head of state to have killed children. Rene Journiac stressed: "We have already taken steps, you can come to France. It would be better to leave and set up a regency council." Bokassa then grew angry and threatened to break off his alliances. He wanted to stay in power at any price. I then felt that it was over for him. However, I can assure you that President Dacko, his successor, did not arrive in Bangui from Libreville. He arrived from Paris in a French plane. I was in Paris myself leaving for the United States. I saw him there.

[Question] Is Africa irreversibly split between "moderates" and "progressives?"

[Answer] It is true that Africa is not a continent which speaks one language. Heads of state sometimes provide a ridiculous spectacle by defending indefensible causes.

ZAIRE

BINAISA DENIES BBC REPORT ON OBOTE'S FORCED EXILE

LD281900 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1710 GMT 28 Mar 80 LD/EA

[Text] President Binaisa has on behalf of the National Executive Committee of the Uganda National Liberation Front [UNLF] categorically denied reports that the Uganda Government or anyone in the government is hindering the return of the former President Dr Milton Obote.

Speaking at a press conference in Kampala, Mr Binaisa stressed that no organization or person has the right to prevent any citizen from entering the country and that the UNLF will never deny human rights, which it has been advocating, to anyone.

President Binaisa was reacting to a British Broadcasting Corporation report in which Dr Obote claimed to be staying in Dar es Salaam under a request from Kampala.

Mr Binaisa said that he will be sending a message to President Nyerere and Dr Obote clarifying the stand of the Uganda Government, adding that Dr Obote is free to return home any time and that the government will very willingly assist him to come back.

Mr Binaisa stressed that the right of a Ugandan to return to his country is nonnegotiable. President Binaisa called on ex-President Obote and ex-President Lule to come back so that they can participate in the general elections and nation-building. Mr Binaisa again stated that general elections must be held on time so that people can choose their leaders freely in order to have a stable government to attract investments and go ahead with the task of rebuilding the country.

The minister of foreign affairs and a member of the National Executive Committee, Mr Otema Alimadi, said the Consultative Council had agreed to the principle of holding general elections, but this agreement was centered on the method or system of holding elections.

Mr Alimadi, commenting on the return of the former president, said Mr Obote contributed very immensely to the liberation of Uganda and the sooner he returns the better.

Another member of the executive committee declared that the UNLF provides a comprehensive framework whereby a political party will participate under a united front.

It was also revealed that there is a possibility of the National Consultative Council deciding in a national referendum to decide whether the general elections be held under one party or several parties.

The press conference was also attended by the minister of culture, rehabilitation and community development who is also the secretary of the diplomatic and political commission of the UNLF, Mr Dan Wadada Nabudere; the minister of regional cooperation, Yoweri Museveni; and a member of the National Executive Committee, Mr Sam Sebagereka.

REGIONAL COMMISSIONERS COMMENT ON MEETING WITH LOKONGA

AB311100 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1318 GMT 30 Mar 80 AB

[Text] Kinshasa, 30 Mar (AZAP)--In connection with the meeting of regional commissioners which took place in Kinshasa from 24 to 29 March under the chairmanship of the first state commissioner, Citizen Bo-Boliko Lokonga, spokesman for the regional commissioners, for the ANEZA (National Association of Zairian Enterprises] and the UNTZA [National Union of Workers of Zaire] today granted an interview to the press.

The regional commissioner for Kasai Oriental, Citizen Efambe Yolanga, dean of the regional commissioners, assisted by the commissioner of the Shaba region, stated that during this meeting, the first state commissioner informed them about the action program being implemented by the Executive Council in which a number of socioeconomic objectives have been defined. He also said that each of the regional commissioners has a particular program, especially in the field of agriculture where each entity has to direct its efforts toward increasing the production of one or two basic food crops, such as maize, cassava and rice.

As for the actions to be taken to rehabilitate the authority of the state, as the first state commissioner firmly demands, Citizen Efambe said that it is absolutely essential for sanctions to be reestablished and for discipline to be imposed in all sectors of national life in order to achieve the objective. In this regard, Citizen Bo-Boliko urged the regional commissioners to practice what they preach and to correct all the corruption and shortcomings of the agents put at their disposal, Citizen Efambe added.

Talking about Shaba in particular, Citizen Mandungu Bula Nyati recalled that in February Shaba had organized days of reflection on increasing agricultural production in the rural areas and the role of traditional chiefs in the implementation of the Mobutu plan. The commissioner for the Shaba region stressed that this discussion enabled his region to carry out a program that takes into consideration the real potential of the region. We will always operate on the basics, he added. Concerning the role of traditional chiefs, Citizen Mandungu said that they are not monuments but the people responsible for organizing and managing the life of the community, being the heads of the basic administrative structure.

As for ANEZA, the administrator delegate, Citizen Munga Wa Nyasa, expressed satisfaction with the work of the regional commissioners meeting, and he cited the following reasons: First, it was the first time that collaboration between the authorities and the economic organizations has been truly consolidated. Nevertheless, he recalled that since 4 February, following a decision of the head of state, ANEZA has participated in the economic committee, a very important organ of the Executive Council, and added that this collaboration has been extended to all the regions.

The second reason for ANEZA's satisfaction is the organization of the distribution channels, which should be completely rational in order to have a certain effect on prices, which should be controlled by the authorities. Citizen Munga gave as an example the Shaba professional bakers committee, which has abolished middle men and receives flour directly from Midema.

The administrator delegate of ANEZA also stressed that to insure the success of the new distribution channels, these channels have to be furnished with supplies. This implies that the manufacturing enterprises have to be provided with raw materials and spare parts.

The UNTZA was represented by the regional secretaries from Bas-Zaire, Kinshasa, and Haut-Zaire, Citizens Mwanba-Katanga, Bwangi and Bakwela. Citizen Mwamba first of all thanked the Executive Council for including representatives of the workers in last week's meeting and for including them generally in decision-making. Talking about the distribution channels, he said: Yesterday these channels were considered a sacred domain reserved exclusively for importers and industrialists. Today it has become everybody's concern.

Citizen Mwanba also noted at this meeting the constant preoccupation of the executive with enabling the economically weak, that is the consumers, to regain their purchasing power, which is often absorbed by staggering price increases. He added that this is not the first time we have shown concern and recalled the law on tax contribution of workers. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that he would soon see the regional socioeconomic councils, whose members are known, in operation.

Citizen Bwangi, on his part, hoped that there will be more such meetings so that the voice of the workers will also be heard through their union so that they can regain their purchasing power.

DEFENSE MINISTER VISITS BELGIUM FOR COOPERATION TALKS

AB291152 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1803 GMT 28 Mar 80 AB

[Text] Kinshasa, 28 Mar (AZAP)--The state commissioner for national defense, Gen Babia Zongbi Malobia, who has been on an official visit to Belgium for the past 4 days, had talks yesterday with the chief of staff of the Belgian Armed Forces, Lieutenant General Sontier. General Babia, who was accompanied by Brig Gen Kikunda Ombala, chief of staff of the Zairian Armed Forces, and Staff Officer Colonel Malu-Malu, principal adviser to the Department of National Defense, had a working session with his host on military cooperation between Belgium and Zaire. The state commissioner for national defense then visited the logistics division of the Belgian Army, before he was received for lunch by the chief of staff of the Belgian Army at the electronic and transmissions center of Pentie.

In the afternoon General Babia visited the air base at St Trond, where he watched an acrobatic display of Alpha Jet training planes. A reception was held in his honor by Zaire's ambassador to Belgium, Citizen Ininga. Many civilian and military personalities were present at the reception.